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Hafa Adai!

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EPA asks court to appoint receiver for CUC projects

» US govt also requests court to find utilities agency in breach of order and in contempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Disappointed with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. alleged continued violation of court orders and deadlines and the CNMI government's continued failure to fund CUC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency asked the federal court yesterday to appoint a receiver to implement some CUC projects. It also asked the court to find the utilities agency in breach of stipulated court order and in contempt.

RELATED NEWS
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Palau lawmakers meet with members of the CNMI House of Representatives yesterday. Six members of Palau's House of Delegates are on a casino fact-finding mission in the CNMI. The group also met yesterday with Gov. Eloy S. Inos. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Palau lawmakers vow public hearings on casino bill

» Fact-finding team meets with House, governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Unlike the CNMI Legislature, Palau lawmakers said yesterday they will hold public hearings in all their 16 states on a bill legalizing casino operation in Palau at a time when their pension system is on the brink of collapse. Six members of Palau's House of Delegates on a casino fact-finding mission in the CNMI met yesterday with Gov. Eloy S. Inos and House members, a day after meeting with senators.

"Palau is on the right track holding public hearings on the casino bill and that will result in a committee report. That didn't happen here in the CNMI," Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), one of those who voted "no" to the Saipan casino bill, said upon learning of Palau lawmakers' plan.

Palau Delegate Lucio Ngiraiwet told *Saipan*

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

Paul Russ to be towed out

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

With worsening weather mounting, the U.S Coast Guard, CNMI Homeland Security, and representatives for the grounded commercial cargo vessel *Paul Russ* gave the go—on the recommendation of the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal team—for plans to pull out the grounded vessel and bring it port-side last night.

The window of operation was planned for 8pm and 11pm last night, according to Marvin Seman, CNMI office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant.

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About 50 people volunteer to grill a 100-foot bratwurst at a bar in Illinois.
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Shia LaBeouf pleads guilty to disorderly conduct.
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Lawmakers identify options to help CUC

» 'Tap $10M utility voucher, $15M casino license fee, or across-the-board budget cuts'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. facing possible receivership and breach of a stipulated order, some lawmakers said yesterday the Inos administration should consider tapping $10 million in utility vouchers that casino developer Best Sunshine International Ltd. plans to give out by mid-October, commit the next $15 million annual casino license fee to fund CUC, or impose across-the-board budget cuts to give to the utilities agency.

"A minimum $2-million government funding for CUC will show good faith effort on our part to help CUC," House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Commission chair Rep. Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Deleon Guerrero said Gov. Eloy S. Inos still has the budget bill so he can line-item veto it to give more funds to CUC.

The PUTC Committee chair also said the governor can implement an across-the-board budget cut, and those funds can then be used to pay CUC.

The Public School System, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the central government, and other agencies owe CUC over $20 million in unpaid utility debts. This is in addition to millions of dollars that residential users also owe CUC.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) separately said Saipan might once again experience rolling blackouts if the government does not help fund its power, water, and wastewater operations.

Tebuteb said the administration may consider asking Best Sunshine to directly contribute $10 million to CUC for its operations rather than use that $10 million in utility vouchers to residents as part of its community chest proposal.

Under the $3.14-billion Saipan casino license agreement, Best Sunshine will provide $10 million in the form of CUC vouchers within 60 days of the Aug. 12 date of license issuance.

To date, Best Sunshine does not have a clear cut criteria yet in identifying recipients of these vouchers.

Leon Guerrero agrees with Tebuteb's proposal to tap the $10 million, pointing out that "time is of the essence."

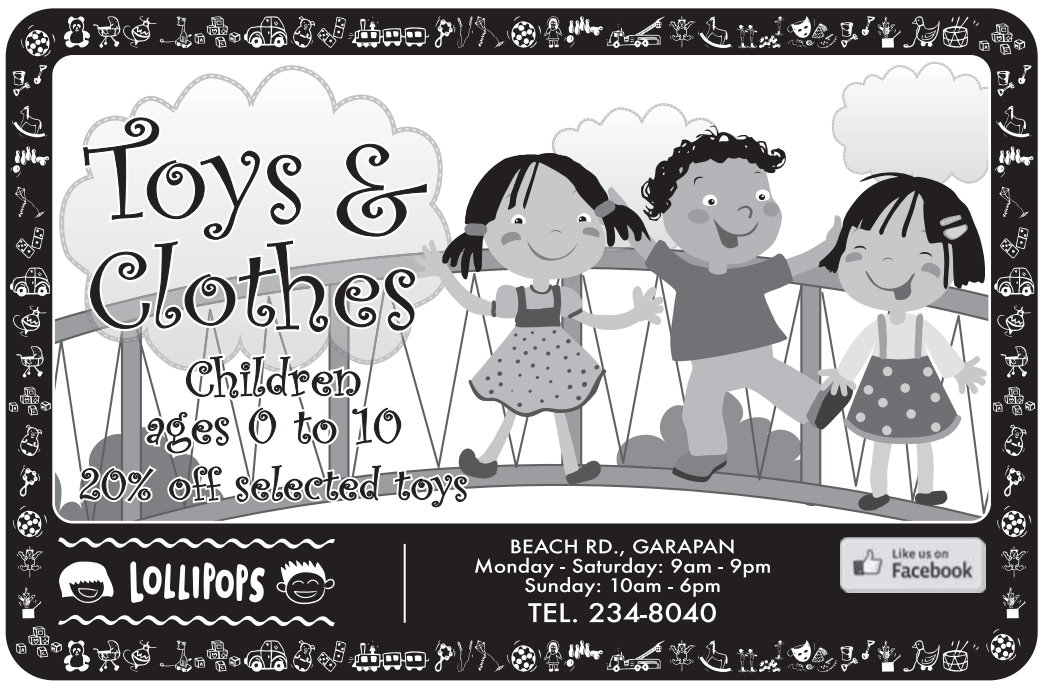
"Since Best Sunshine will have to distribute $10 million by mid-October anyway, why can't this money be given directly to CUC?" he said. "That way, everyone really benefits because they won't have to experience power outages for example because CUC has funds to operate and maintain its facilities and equipment, and not only those who are supposed to get vouchers."

Tebuteb said another option is for the administration to set aside Best Sunshine's next payment of $15 million in annual casino license fee for CUC.

The lawmaker acknowledged the tough choice between restoring 25 percent of retirees' pension next year or going into rolling blackouts once again that will affect not only retirees but everyone in the community.

"There's high potential of rolling blackouts again in the next few months. …But I hope I'm wrong. It's now a policy call," Tebuteb said.

Leon Guerrero said while this is another option, it will still be about a year before the CNMI could receive the $15 million annual license fee.



TO BACK UP CNMI'S $6.5M DEAL WITH JOHNSON'S HAWAII COUNSEL

Tydingco-Gatewood issues $7M consent judgment vs the CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood issued yesterday a consent judgment that Betty Johnson's Hawaii-based counsel Bronster Hoshibata law firm shall recover $7 million from the CNMI.

Tydingco-Gatewood said lawyers Margery Bronster and Robert Hatch and the CNMI government have entered into a settlement agreement on the fees and costs the government will pay to the lawyers and this consent judgment is an integral part of that agreement.

The $7-million consent judgment is enforceable in the event that the CNMI government is in default in the payment of $6.5 million to Bronster Hoshibata law firm.

In a separate written order yesterday, Tydingco-Gatewood said the $6.5-million fee agreement between the CNMI and the Bronster Hoshibata law firm is approved as of Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Tydingco-Gatewood heard Tuesday Bronster Hoshibata's and the CNMI government's joint motion for approval of the law firm's fee agreement. No one objected to the motion.

In her order yesterday, the judge said she is aware that the fee agreement was reached after the parties participated in many months of settlement talks with Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert J. Faris.

"Having considered the motion for approval as well as all arguments and submissions, the court hereby finds the fee agreement to be fair and reasonable," Tydingco-Gatewood said.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, the CNMI government, and Finance, through assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan, recently joined Bronster Hoshibata's motion for approval of the attorney's fee deal.

Sablan said the Commonwealth maintains its position that Bronster Hoshibata law firm's fees should be limited to the lodestar amount without a multiplier.

However, Sablan said, the Commonwealth also recognizes that, if left to decide the matter, Tydingco-Gatewood could award an amount much greater than the lodestar.

The Inos administration agreed to settle Bronster Hoshibata's petition for attorney's fees and costs for payment of $6.5 million (to be paid over three years).

Bronster Hoshibata's original demand was for $17.5 million to be paid through installment.

The administration also settled for $185,000 and $800,000 the petitions for attorney's fees and costs filed by Johnson's other counsels, Stephen C. Woodruff and Bruce Jorgensen, respectively.

The court had already approved Woodruff's settlement deal. Jorgensen's deal and a petition for attorney's fees and costs filed by Johnson's counsel from San Rafael, California, Timothy Lord, are still subject to court approval.

Lord's initial demand for payment of fees was either $3.6 million or $5.9 million. The CNMI opposed granting fees to Lord.

Roberto's defense rests, closing arguments on Monday

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The defense rested its case yesterday morning after calling their ninth witness to the stand in the ongoing jury trial of Raymond B. Roberto in federal court.

» Prosecution calls a total of 10 witnesses, defense calls 9

Roberto's counsel announced that the defense rests after the testimony of police detective Melissa Bauleong.

Bauleung was one of the police detectives who interviewed the alleged victims. She was the one who reportedly accompanied Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents to the Parkville Motel in Gualo Rai during the FBI's investigation.

Defense counsels David J. Lujan and Joaquin Torres did not ask for a judgment of acquittal.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the closing arguments for Monday at 8:30am after the parties asked for more time to prepare.

Manglona ordered an early recess for the jurors.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday morning, Manglona and the parties were discussing proposed final jury instructions.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ross Naughton joined Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy and U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco in the jury instructions conference that lasted until noon.

Manglona

The prosecution rested on Monday after calling in 10 witnesses, including the three alleged underage victims.

The trial began on Aug. 8. Jury selection lasted seven days—said to be the longest so far in the CNMI.

Roberto, 41, is a former acting director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. He is charged with three counts of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

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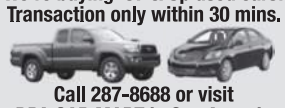
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PAUL RUSS

From Page 1

Three tugboats provided by the *Paul Russ* were set to pull the vessel around that time, he said.

Seman cited "Murphy's Law"—which states that whatever can go wrong, will go wrong—to explain the reasoning behind their decision to pull out the grounded vessel.

"We just don't have any options or room for failure right now. If we leave it there, that vessel is going to get pounded, [it's] gonna eventually breach that hull, we're gonna eventually have an oil spill or a vessel dead in the water because it can't move or it's going to sink in the channel," he said.

He expressed confidence in the operation, giving it a "high probability" that the vessel will be portside before morning.

"The reason why we're pushing hard to get this out is because the weather is not in our favor. Right now we're looking at six-foot sea swells outside," Seman said last night.

He also noted "the pressing issue" of supplies coming into port, which was closed due to the discovery of unexploded ordnance near and around the vessel.

"This is what keeps the island going," he said, referring to the seaport.

He said, though, that no commercial vessels were scheduled to arrive yesterday, with the next available shipment coming in toward the weekend.

On yesterday's operations, Seman said Navy EOD arrived for a briefing, with their team revealing photographs taken of the site. From there, the Navy came up with an assessment plan and, after news of uncooperative weather, the decision to pull the vessel out immediately was given.

A concern on Wednesday was discovery of unexploded ordnance around the vessel.

However, the World War II torpedoes found were "degraded," according to Seman, and the rest of the ordnance found were "rusted out."

He said the ordnance is not expected to explode when the vessel is towed.

Seman said the vessel would be brought portside for assessment to ensure its stability.

As for a plan B, he said there are contingency plans that have been prepped in case of an oil spill or structural damage.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

Tribune yesterday that Palau's Civil Service Pension payout is $1.4 million "but the contribution is only $6,000 to $8,000 a year."

Ngiraiwet and the other visiting members of the Palau House of Delegates took turns stating what they believe were compelling reasons for Palau lawmakers to introduce and pass on first reading a casino bill. That included their almost broke pension system.

"The whole point of putting this forward, introducing it, is the understanding that we go through public hearings, in all states of Palau," Ngiraiwet said after meeting with House members and before proceeding to meet with Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Ngiraiwet heads the six-member Palau delegation and is chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations and State Affairs.

"We are on a fact-finding mission. We want to find out the pros and cons," Ngiraiwet said.

CNMI House floor leader Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan), who presided over the meeting and author of the Saipan casino bill that became law, told the visiting lawmakers that the casino legislation is a "controversial" one "but it's the law now."

Palau Delegate Swenny Ongidobel, chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Matters, said Palau wants to "see the result of [CNMI lawmakers'] work" on the casino legislation.

"We didn't like casino before but now we're on the same boat," he said.

Ongidobel said they got most parts of their own casino bill from the Saipan casino bill.

Palau Delegate Lee Otobed, chairman of the Community, Planning and Development Committee, asked CNMI lawmakers how they managed to pass the bill and how they overcame church concerns, considering that the CNMI is a predominantly Catholic community.

Not one of the CNMI House members mentioned that the Saipan casino bill didn't go through public hearings.

Demapan, however, said "to run a government, we need funds," referring to the CNMI government's mounting financial obligations.

"This legislation provided added money to the government," he said, adding that a big chunk of a two-year advance casino license fee of $30 million was already paid out to retirees for their deferred 25-percent pension and former members of the government's defined benefit plan.

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (R-Saipan) told his counterparts from Palau that in his view, the CNMI people are still "divided" but as lawmakers they had to make the "tough decision."

Rep. Richard Seman (R-Saipan), Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), and others pointed out that casino is only one of the components of an integrated resort, along with hotel rooms, a convention center, retail stores, and restaurants that Palau can benefit from that's outside of gaming.

Ivan Blanco, acting press secretary, said the administration appreciates the Palau delegation's visit as arranged by Palau Consul to the CNMI Eileen Kintol.

The Palau delegation, he said, was given a brief chronological timeline of the process of the licensing of the integrated resort and the number of additional rooms to be added to the market.

"The Palau delegation, in turn, shared concern that the life of Palau's retirement program has 10 years left, and they do not want to wait for the 11th hour. So, they're on a mission to find ways to mitigate the plan's unfunded liability, among other things. One industry they're looking at is an integrated resort like the CNMI's," Blanco said.

Palau's business market is open to both mainland China and Taiwan, which would give them an added leverage.

"Both the governor and the Palau delegation shared that, like any other major economic development activity anywhere, there will always be an opposition outcry, but that the focus on any major economic development is and will always be for the best interest of the people and the future of the Republic of Palau and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," Blanco said when sought for comment on the governor's meeting with the Palau lawmakers.

At the meeting with CNMI House members, Palau lawmakers also asked how the CNMI came up with a $15-million annual license fee.

This wasn't directly answered. Tebuteb later said there was no report backing such a $15 million a year license fee.

"Looks like it came out of thin air," he said.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, told Palau lawmakers that he, too, was among those who previously voted against initiatives to legalize casino on Saipan but he said "times have changed."

"We no longer have the luxury to wait for miracles [to happen]. We have to make the miracles ourselves," he said, referring to the need to generate additional revenues to address the government's growing financial obligations.

Just like the CNMI, Palau also saw multiple rejections of casino initiatives in past years.

This year, however, the CNMI House and Senate successfully passed legislation legalizing casino on Saipan after numerous attempts by lawmakers failed in the past and after Saipan voters twice rejected casino initiatives.

The latest Saipan casino bill wasn't referred to a committee for review and didn't go through public hearings.

Besides Ngiraiwet, Ongidobel and Otobed, the three other Palau lawmakers on island are Judiciary and Governmental Affairs Committee chair Noah Kemesong; Tourism and Aviation Committee chair Marino Ngemaes; and Maritime, Environment and Protected Areas Committee chair Sebastian Marino. They were accompanied by staffers Tricia Wong and Stalin Stanley.

EPA

From Page 1

EPA, however, is not seeking the appointment of a receiver for CUC generally—at least for now—but someone who will take charge of implementing the court's stipulated order No. 2, or SO2.

SO2 focuses on oil issues such as repairing and replacing infrastructure, managing tanks and pipelines, and spill prevention and response.

In the U.S. government's motion filed yesterday, U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien pointed out that the appointment of a receiver is especially important when serious health and environmental concerns are at stake.

Aside from seeking a receiver, O'Brien asked the court to find CUC in breach of SO2, require the CNMI government to fund CUC as it relates to the orders, and find CUC in contempt for failing to comply with SO2.

When sought for comment, CUC executive Alan W. Fletcher said the issue of a receiver has come up before and that they believe this motion is a follow up to their July 2014 status conference where the judge directed the Department of Justice to file a motion if they were so inclined.

Fletcher said the motion is several hundred pages long and CUC continues to wade through the documents.

He said the motion is currently scheduled to be heard on Sept. 24, 2014, but they anticipate the hearing to be moved to allow the parties to respond.

"In the meantime, it is business as usual, as there is no effect on our daily operations," Fletcher said.

If the U.S. District Court for the NMI grants EPA's request, the receiver and the receiver's authority shall not be subject to the review or approval of CUC or the CNMI.

CUC and the CNMI shall be jointly responsible for the receiver's expenses. Within 30 days, CUC and the CNMI shall deposit $7 million into an escrow account approved by the federal court.

The $7 million payment is intended to reimburse all or a portion of the "receiver's expenses," until the 12th month time period funding is placed in the escrow account.

O'Brien said the $7 million will be for the oil pipeline and Tank 102 funding and receiver expenses (including the existing funding earmarked for these projects). O'Brien said CUC and the CNMI must annually pre-fund the receiver's expenses, with the receiver compensated after providing sufficient demonstration and obtaining court approval.

The oil pipeline is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel fuel from the Mobil oil facility to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base. EPA had determined that until the pipeline is replaced, it poses a threat to U.S. waters.

The Tank 102 Project involves a 500,000-gallon diesel fuel tank that will replace Tank 010, which has been found to be a source of pollution and is non-repairable.

Since entry of the stipulated orders, O'Brien said the U.S. has awarded CUC more than $50 million to implement the orders and other water and wastewater projects. He said EPA spent nearly $7 million for power plants remediation and provided substantial technical assistance.

"Yet CUC has repeatedly shown itself incapable of meeting SO2's requirements and the court's deadlines, despite the United States' grant funding," O'Brien said.

CUC told the court and the U.S. government that the CNMI government's refusal to pay its utility bills and fund CUC has contributed to CUC's failure to comply with the orders.

Indeed, O'Brien said, the CNMI government has turned a deaf ear to the need for funding as it has amassed over $27 million in unpaid utility bills—with no apparent intent to shoulder its share—leaving the burden of funding to ratepaying local citizens and other utility users.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter has presided over 56 status conferences and personally inspected many of CUC's facilities. However, O'Brien said, the court's good-faith attempt to create a functional facility has been unsuccessful.

At the July 2014 hearing, the U.S. government did not request the court to appoint a receiver but elected to allow CUC and the CNMI another opportunity to show that SO2 projects and funding are on track.

"The United States was, again, disappointed," O'Brien said.

He said CUC re-affirmed that the construction start date for Tank 102 is speculative because the construction contract must first be approved by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

Subsequent to the July hearing, he said, CUC informed the U.S. that the CPUC hearing is currently set in September, though a CPUC decision may not be made at that hearing.

O'Brien said the uncertainty compounds the construction reversal resulting from CNMI's bid protest process that caused the initial Tank 102 contractor to be replaced, which resulted in an extended initial construction schedule.

CUC missed the extended construction deadline of Feb. 8, 2013.

O'Brien said CUC's report on the pipeline was worse.

He said CUC reported fundamental flaws with the quality of the work being performed by CUC's construction contractor, Smithbridge Guam Inc.

The next day, he said, the pipeline designer and third party construction manager, Vanderpool Pipeline Engineers Inc., informed the court that Smithbridge should be replaced due to incompetence and poor work quality.

O'Brien said that, on Aug. 29, 2014, CUC issued a notice of default and termination to Smithbridge; that same day, EPA received notice that CUC requested Vanderpool Pipeline Engineers Inc. to demobilize from Saipan.

"Thus, the pipeline is stalled—again—notwithstanding CUC was initially required to complete the construction by Feb. 24, 2011," O'Brien said.

He said CUC recently informed the court that although CPUC approved the Tank 102 contract, CPUC now takes the position that it has expanded authorities to review and approve the pipeline project, thereby significantly affecting the "ability of CUC, EPA, and the court to manage" the pipeline project.

O'Brien said the CNMI's conduct plays an important role in CUC's failures. He noted that the CNMI government's refusal to pay its utility bills or to otherwise fund CUC undermines CUC's ability to fund projects, places the funding shortfall on other rate-payers, and fosters CUC's untenable position that projects must be funded by federal grants.

O'Brien said as demonstrated throughout the years, and exhibited during 56 status conferences before the court, CUC's managerial incompetence, institutional inertia caused by procurement and contracting constraints, and lack of financial resources due in part to CNMI's refusal to pay its utility bills or to otherwise allow CUC funding, collectively provide compelling reasons for the court to intervene in this case to fashion an appropriate remedy once and for all "to get the job done."

Change in day of payroll release prompts talks of salary delays

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

For nearly a month now, *Saipan Tribune* has been receiving close to 20 calls and emails from personnel at the hospital about salary delays, stating that the issue is beginning to be a problem.

» Muña says processing of payday is on Friday

Callers range from anonymous callers and friends of Commonwealth Health Center staff, to hospital staff and nurses themselves—all asking for the media's help by publishing their plight.

One caller said that he didn't get paid on Friday last week. According to him, he also did not get any payment from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. last Friday.

An email from a hospital personnel said that he did not get paid until Monday, Sept. 8.

"It is a fact that a number of employees went to Bank of Hawaii and First Hawaiian Bank before the banks closed at 6pm on Friday and were told that they don't have a paycheck," the email stated.

Saipan Tribune also received several hospital staff calls and emails, also claiming that they didn't get paid.

Employees at CHCC regularly get paid on Wednesdays if their accounts are with Bank of Guam and Thursdays if their accounts are with Bank of Hawaii.

Another source told *Saipan Tribune* that Women, Infant, and Children's Clinic employees have also experienced delays in their salaries, "even though hospital staff got paid last month."

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña clarified that CHCC paydays have always been Fridays.

"This was not changed. At times, however, we would submit our request to charge our accounts for payroll early, even pay as early as Monday when there's a holiday in the week," Muña told *Saipan Tribune*.

Muña said they have advised corporate officers on Thursday that they would be processing payday on Friday and that staff should not worry.

"We are also considering maintaining a Friday payday from hereon as there seems to be confusion when payday should be and as shown in the many assumptions that we delayed payday. Again, payday was not delayed. It was finally done on the appropriate day," Muña said.

According to BoH, First Hawaiian Bank, and BoG, processing of payments getting transferred to individual accounts are based on the corporation or organization sending money in on time for the final closing; in this case, BoH, transferring funds closes in the afternoon, and account holders will receive the funds within one or two working days after the transfer.

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Large customers encouraged to review CUC's incentive rate

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is urging large commercial customers to look at the incentive rate and forward their comments or concerns to the utilities company.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said that the Incentive Rate Rider Contract and an economic benefit statement is now available for review on CUC's website, www.cucgov.org.

Fletcher said that CUC has worked with the hotel group on Saipan to explore options for large commercial customers that are currently self-generating all or most of their electric requirements.

"CUC would like these customers to purchase all of their electricity from CUC and has developed a new rate to attract these customers onto the system, with the condition that the new rates not cause other customers to pay more for their bills," Fletcher said.

The result of the incentive rate would apply only to customers who generate 90 percent or more of their annual electrical requirements.

"It would be low enough so that it would be close to self-generating customers' cost, yet still provide CUC with enough additional revenues to be justified," he said.

Fletcher acknowledged that going back to the CUC grid is a risk for large commercial customers but hotels have expressed that they would be willing to take that risk.

"A strong utility is a key element to CNMI stability, and will attract and enhance the tourist experience in the CNMI," he said.

Fletcher noted that other companies that are considering investing in the CNMI will see that almost all of the existing hotels and other large businesses that serve the CNMI's tourism industry made a choice to purchase from CUC for "rational economic reasons."

"This sends a strong signal to other new customers to connect to CUC's grid. In turn, this will provide a more stable base for the CNMI and all its customers,"

Incentive rates are common in the U.S and some are designed to attract new customers while others will keep existing customers from leaving; those that have moved into incentive rate contracts sufficed from the high utility cost they had received before.

Fletcher said that getting this class of customers back to the CUC grid will help "maximize the economic value of surplus generation capacity and economies of scale."

"CUC is in a similar situation as adding hotels would increase the peak demand. This additional load would work to spread out the fixed cost of operating the system over a larger base of customers," he said.

The incentive rate for large commercial customers can be viewed at www.cucgov.org under "regulatory matters/ public utilities commission."

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission is also waiting on the commercial customers' review and is set by the end of the month to make a decision on the incentive rate.

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HISTORY LESSONS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College Director of Library Programs & Services Chris Todd shares some brief history about the ancient Chamorro culture with students from Nihon University, the largest university in Japan. The students are on Saipan to study the history and culture of the CNMI as part of their institution's cultural exchange program.

COTA: Over 4K riders in 7 months

The Commonwealth Office on Transit Authority has reached 4,179 riders in the past seven months alone, according to COTA special assistant for public transportation Thomas Camacho.

According to Camacho, the number of riders has increased due to the demand for public transportation in the CNMI. "This shows the importance of public transportation is for the community," he said.

Camacho said that they maintain ridership data, keeping track on how many people are riding every month for the whole year.

The latest data covers the period from January to July.

The highest month COTA served for public transportation was in May, which reached 774 riders, compared to the month before, a 200-some increase in riders.

Majority of the people seeking transportation are residential customers, where riders seek transportation returning home. Second is public assistance for persons with disabilities, while third is for work and medical needs.

In related news, COTA has cancelled its election of new officers for the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board due to some of the members not showing up.

According to Camacho, the CPTAB had 11 members, but three months ago, the number was reduced to six members, and yesterday, Sept. 12, was there first meeting and supposedly election of officers.

Camacho said they will hold their next meeting on Rota. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

International Festival of Cultures kicks off tomorrow at the Paseo

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The inaugural International Festival of Cultures will kick off tomorrow, Sept. 13, at the Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan.

The Marianas Visitors Authority's newest annual event, which will showcase the diverse cultures of the CNMI, will open at 5pm and performances will start at 6pm and end at 11pm.

The event will be held every Saturday starting tomorrow and on Sept. 20, 24, 27, before concluding on Oct. 4.

On the last day of the event, Oct. 4, there will be a parade starting at 5:30pm in Garapan from the Carolinian Affairs Office to American Memorial Park ending at Coral Tree Avenue.

The event will feature 18 different cultures, from the indigenous people of the CNMI to Kosrae, Palau, Chuuk, Japan, Bangladesh, Korea, China, the Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Hawaii, New Zealand, Tahiti, Marquesas, and Cook Islands.

The different cultures will showcase their heritage through performing arts, cuisine, and arts and crafts. There will also be demonstration booths.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said the festival is not just about the indigenous people of the CNMI but also about other cultures here.

"We have guest workers and other cultures that help play an important role in the CNMI's success," he said.

Tenorio said they decided to hold the festival in September because it is considered a low season for tourists.

Low seasons start usually at the end of summer and start picking up early to mid-November and then end between February and start picking up once again in the beginning of spring.

"The hope is that if visitors come here and attend the event, they would recommend it to their friends or family members and that they come in the future, as an added value, just to attend the annual event. So that we get people coming in during the low peak season," Tenorio said.

He said they intend to make this festival an annual event.

He noted that MVA is the "sole driver" of the event through part-funding it but they are also collaborating with PDM Promoters, Inc. and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Council for Arts and Culture.

"I encourage the community to come out and enjoy the event. This is very important that the community involves itself and support MVA on this event so that visitors can interact with the community as well," he said.

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LOCATIONS - Saipan & Rota

HLI 18-12 is for more instructional materials, resources in public education

Public education spending per student in the CNMI "average 60 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure of their counterparts in the mainland."

This means that for every dollar spent for public school students in the U.S., their counterparts in the CNMI—public schools students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—only spend 60 cents, an amount that is a combination of local and federal monies.

This level of local investment for public education is not enough to fund instructional materials and resources for public schools students, teachers and staff, and public schools in the CNMI.

This also means that there is not enough access to quality services and programs that can be availed of by public schools students. With House Legislative Initiative 18-12, public elementary, middle, and high school students will be able to avail of resources, materials, expertise and other forms of support to further sustain the growth of student learning.

Currently, PSS' funding capacity limits the school district's ability to be competitive and its ability to provide for a 21st century classroom environment that is currently present in its counterparts in the nation.

H.L.I. 18-12, once passed by voters this coming election, will primarily allow for increased classroom learning opportunities that currently is being supplemented by PSS' share of federal monies.

For more than a decade now, per-pupil spending in the CNMI has been on a downward trend. As the cost per-pupil in the mainland United States increased from $ 8,378 in 2003 to $10,445 at the close of school year 2013-2104, the local per-pupil spending for public education was only at $3,306 and by the end of 2013-2014, it was pegged at $3,116 per-pupil.

Local budget

The funding for PSS is primarily spent in three equally critical areas vital to student learning.

The bulk of the PSS local appropriations is allocated to classroom teachers, staff, and personnel. Of the $32 million fiscal 2014 budget for PSS, $28.8 million was allocated to salaries and wages.

Another $2 million is allocated annually for water, sewer, and power for all 19 public school campuses, 10 Head Start centers, central office, and other PSS facilities.

A little over $2 million is left for "all others"—for operation and maintenance of all its facilities.

"The local funding we continue to receive as part of the government's annual general appropriation is utilized to fund these critical areas. Essentially, our federal monies have assisted our school district to find better ways to improve student learning, by supplementing educational programs, resources, materials, trainings and improvements offered and provided by PSS," Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan explained.

Sablan pointed out that H.L.I. 18-12 will ease the challenge in funding additional programs and services for students to avail of much needed classroom resources, materials, and support.

Accreditation finding

Improving classroom instruction has been central to PSS' in building the overall capacity of its teachers and student. Although it is a growth in progress, at the onset of the 21st century, technology has changed classroom instruction dramatically.

PSS has also adopted and managed change to best serve its student.

PSS has also stepped up and implemented research-based instructional strategies and best practices to improve classroom learning and student outcomes.

However, with stringent and specific mandates in federal funding utilization, sustaining this direction for PSS hinges upon the need for more local investment in public education resources, instructional materials, and other support services.

AdvancED, the globally-recognized accrediting arm—which granted PSS the region's first system-wide accreditation status—validated the need for more local investment in public education by citing the need for local funding support to public education.

"The efforts to engage students in their learning are spreading throughout the system but have not reached the level to be truly systemic in nature at this time. In order to achieve systematic and systemic approach to highly engaged student activities, the school system will need to provide its teachers with ongoing professional development and guide and support them along the way," a portion of AdvancED's 48-paged finding reads.

It added, "Resources is an area that will need to be addressed in order to achieve the vision and goals the Public School System has set for its students. The team observed several situations where lack of adequate resources make it difficult for the school system to provide the learning environment that students need to be prepared and successful for their future."

With H.L.I. 18-12, PSS is able to sustain its research-based and data-driven curriculum and content standards that, among others, expect all public school students to continually develop and acquire appropriate skills. This, however, requires more local funding.

Essentially, the intent of H.L.I. 18-12 is about equal access to quality services and program that continue to be challenged due to the lack of needed local funds to supplement classroom learning and instructional materials for both teachers and staff. ***(PSS)***

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Thank You!

Delta donates two tickets to Chamber golf tournament

Delta Air Lines generously donated two roundtrip economy tickets to Honolulu/U.S. to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for the golf tournament to be held next month. The lucky winners of these tickets will also receive Delta Air Lines logo items and memorabilia. The Chamber extends a huge thank you to Delta Air Lines for helping in such a grand way!

The funds raised by the tournament and raffle will support the Chamber's Scholarship Program, monthly training seminars, and other community based projects.

In June 2014, five $2,000 scholarships were awarded to deserving high school seniors, and one $2,000 scholarship to an NMTI student.

This year's annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce/Steven Brownstein Golf Classic will be held on Oct. 11 at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort with a two-person scramble format. The entry fee for players will be $100. Cash prizes include first place, $800; second place, $500; and third place, $300 for the three categories: Men's Low Gross, Men's Low Net (double Peoria), and Women's Low Net (double Peoria). There are four hole-in-one opportunities (two of which are for $5,000 each). Contests will also be held for closest-to-the-pin and longest drive.

Fabulous raffle prizes will be awarded during the banquet at the end of the tournament. As of Sept. 11, the Chamber has collected over $12,000 worth of prizes for the raffle to be held at the banquet after the tournament! More prizes are still being collected and we expect this will be the most exciting and profitable event yet.

Registration forms for players are available for download at www.saipanchamber.com and at the Chamber office and LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort.

The Chamber is proud to have the support of its generous members and looks forward to offering new programs to enhance the business community on Saipan in the upcoming year. ***(SCC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Air Lines donates two roundtrip Honolulu/U.S. tickets to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce/Steven Brownstein Golf Classic. From left: Greg Moretti, Chris Concepcion (Delta Air Lines), Jill Arenovski, and Alex Sablan.

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‘How may we assist you?’

»Hyatt wants to know how it can help your NGO

“How may I assist you?” is a question guests are frequently asked when calling Hyatt Regency Saipan. It signifies the hotel’s desire to express care by finding ways to assist guests and make their Hyatt experience a truly meaningful one. Hyatt Regency Saipan now echoes the very same question to all the non-profit organizations on the island: “How may we assist you?”

Through its corporate responsibility platform Hyatt Thrive, Hyatt Regency Saipan will host its newly rebranded Charity Golf Classic. The event is a vehicle to raise funds on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation as well as another local non-profit organization of our choosing. The organization must be active within one of the four pillars of Hyatt Thrive: environmental sustainability; economic development and investment; education and personal advancement; and health and wellness.

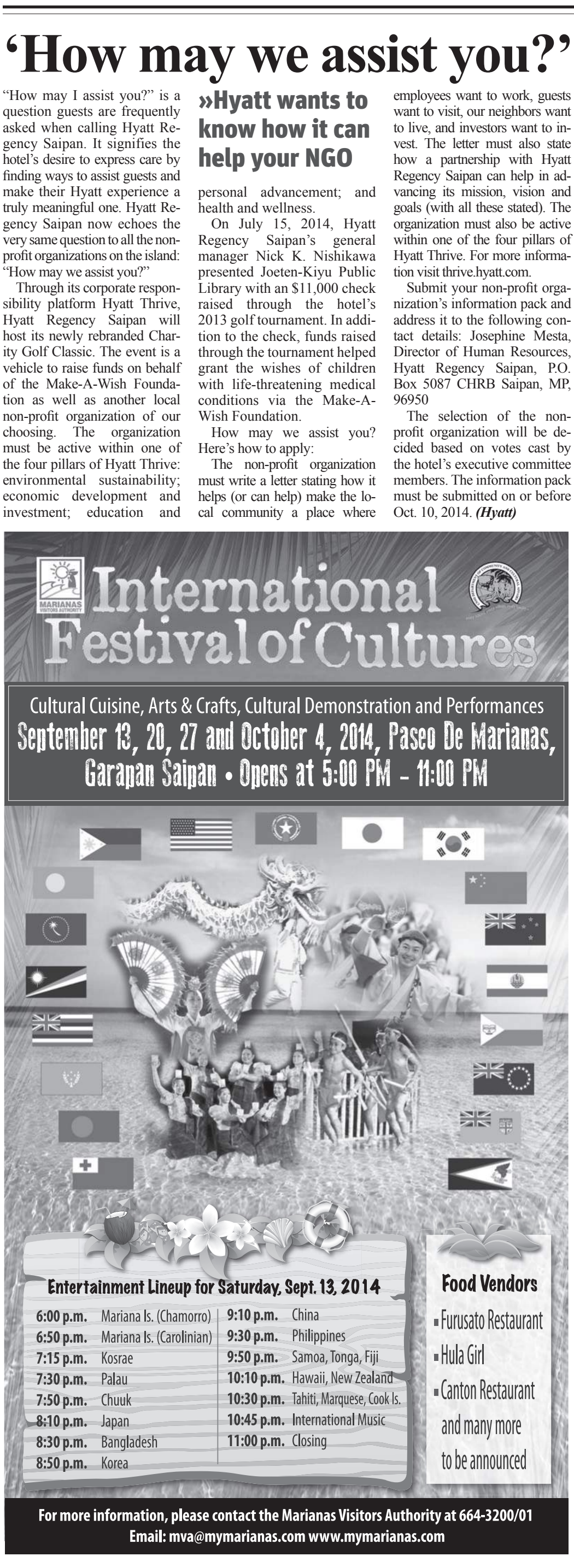
On July 15, 2014, Hyatt Regency Saipan’s general manager Nick K. Nishikawa presented Joeten-Kiyu Public Library with an $11,000 check raised through the hotel’s 2013 golf tournament. In addition to the check, funds raised through the tournament helped grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions via the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

How may we assist you? Here’s how to apply:

The non-profit organization must write a letter stating how it helps (or can help) make the local community a place where employees want to work, guests want to visit, our neighbors want to live, and investors want to invest. The letter must also state how a partnership with Hyatt Regency Saipan can help in advancing its mission, vision and goals (with all these stated). The organization must also be active within one of the four pillars of Hyatt Thrive. For more information visit thrive.hyatt.com.

Submit your non-profit organization’s information pack and address it to the following contact details: Josephine Mesta, Director of Human Resources, Hyatt Regency Saipan, P.O. Box 5087 CHRB Saipan, MP, 96950

The selection of the non-profit organization will be decided based on votes cast by the hotel’s executive committee members. The information pack must be submitted on or before Oct. 10, 2014. ***(Hyatt)***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7:50 p.m. Chuuk
8:10 p.m. Japan
8:30 p.m. Bangladesh
8:50 p.m. Korea
9:10 p.m. China
9:30 p.m. Philippines
9:50 p.m. Samoa, Tonga, Fiji
10:10 p.m. Hawaii, New Zealand
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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
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9/11 museum visit inspires longing for lost civility

By BONNIE MILLER RUBIN
Chicago Tribune

Bonnie Miller Rubin writes for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may send her email at brubin@tribune.com.*

When many Americans heard about the opening of the National 9/11 Memorial & Museum, they had two words: Too soon.

But having recently visited the controversial museum, I thought: Not soon enough.

It's not that I have any desire to rush history or return to those dark days. But spending a few hours reliving countless tales of heroism made me long for who we were following the attacks, when empathy didn't seem like such a quaint notion and we were all rowing together.

Just descending into the archaeological heart of the World Trade Center site is enough to transport you back to that wrenching September morning: the crushed steel, the mangled firetrucks, an elevator motor and the last column, the final beam to be removed at the end of recovery operations at ground zero.

I also felt like I had entered a different type of time capsule, one that brought me face to face with a country I scarcely recognize anymore. Who we were then versus now, when we're so coiled to pick a fight.

Instead of relentless sadness, I found compassion, so palpable in many of the exhibits—and so missing in much of today's discourse. There's the story of Gerard Baptiste, FDNY Ladder Company 9, who had recently bought a beat-up motorcycle, which was parked at the firehouse. After his death in the north tower, enthusiasts pitched in and restored the 1979 Honda, calling it a "bike of healing."

Or the Victims Quilt, a whopping 10-by-60-foot labor of love by 500 citizens nationwide who came together to create something that would provide symbolic comfort to those in mourning.

Most of all, I lingered over the "In Memoriam" exhibition, dedicated to every one of the nearly 3,000 victims of the attacks. As I touched the screen, I touched them. Through their intimate portraits, I met new brides, master gardeners, practical jokers, doting grandparents and long-suffering Mets fans.

In these hushed and solemn halls, all our divisions—along lines of race, religion and class—evaporated. And all of the victims—whether a hedge fund manager or a housekeeper, a Harvard graduate or a high school dropout—got the same type of biography: four or five sentences.

The message was clear: Every life has value.

During the last 13 years, what happened? Why have we turned so viciously on one another? When did we start showing such disrespect that it became OK for a member of Congress to shout "you lie" at a president? How did compromise become a dirty word, morphing into a sign of spinelessness rather than civility?

This isn't just about good manners; it's good for the country. In our current climate, try to imagine achieving some of our finest triumphs—the polio vaccine, the space program, the interstate highway system—without a deluge of boorish behavior.

Yes, I'm painting with a broad brush, of course. Since 2001, we've also witnessed countless examples of selfless acts all across

See MUSEUM on Next Page

EXCUSE ME, BUT I HEAR THAT CONGRESS IS BACK IN SESSION FOR ONLY A VERY SHORT TIME?
ARE YOU COMPLAINING... OR ARE YOU GRATEFUL?
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The Earth's dream

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

The vision was not a wish dream. It was stark reality staring me in the face. The 1968 image of the blue orb in space did not have boundary lines conveniently delineated to keep people and nations apart from each other.

Language teachers at U.S. Peace Corps in Muslim Mindanao in the early '80s claimed that families used to visit cousins in Tawitawi and Sandakan, Balabac and Kota Kinabalu, Sarangani and Sangi, gatherings that recalled outrigger travels before Sulu's Sabah was a glitter in London's eyes, curtailed after WWII when the edges of the nation-states of Malaysia, the Philippines, and Indonesia were defined by the exiting colonial masters.

The West's decolonizing held to the boundaries of former colonies, in our case that of the British, the Spanish and the Dutch, keeping them intact since economic neocolonialism simply meant a change of personnel to keep the business in place. Basic goods were still produced cheaply for export and financing came from similar sources, save the new signatories had darker skins.

Ateneo U in the '70s identified 600 families that owned a majority of the Philippine's assets favored by Vatican's disposed lands. The same was true of Indon *datus* and Malay *sultans* to their own *hoi polloi* in keeping the land and of the same ratio of the *mestizos* against the *masa* in the Philippines. Even today, when the Philippines is no longer the sick man of Asia, and is the second best performing economy next to China in the books, it maintains the old case of poverty at the same dastardly place, and equity parity betwixt the *mestizos* and the *masa* remains criminally disparate.

In my lifetime, I was exposed to three civilizational dreams. The first was that of my childhood, if only because I quickly discarded it. This was the European Dream of the Holy Roman Empire that saw Pope Alexander VI in his *Inter Cetera* declare that Portugal can go east while Spain can go west the year after Columbus completed his first sail to the New World. The British embodied this in the arrogance of "the sun never sets on the British Empire." Aryan superiority was already in place before the German Nazi's Holocaust.

My second, the American Dream, began with Thomas Jefferson's crafted declaration of independence *(We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men* (sic) *are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Right, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness)* that led to its rule of the world from the benevolence of "the light on the hill" exceptionalism and manifest destiny, kept the global financial system tied to Wall Street, and the oil spigots maintained from fields dominated by U.S.-led military, technology, and personnel.

America was the Protestants' Promised Land, and it enslaved West Africans, distrusted Catholics (from Ireland to Italy), codified immigration against Orientals of which the Chinese Exclusion Act and the pictures in *NY Times* of brown little brothers newly evolved from the evolutionary tree, were examples. JFK broke the back of the Catholic stigma with his election (as Obama did for "people of color") and jarred wide open the human side of the slit-eye enigma when he opened the floodgates of immigration. Alas, he was summarily assassinated.

Today, the American Dream emanates from Obama's counterfeit progressiveness (says Afro-Am Cornell West of Union Seminary, NYC) in his checkered presidency trailed by Hillary's hope for hers, while the boys of jihad slit the throats of wide-eyed journalists and captives they corral into their mountain lairs.

In the '80s, Deng Xiaoping revived the China Dream, a third on my list. In its current incarnation—talked about rather than written in text—Xi Jinping proposes three items: 1) 1.4 billion people involved, beyond 80 million members of the CCP; 2) playing field leveled at the urban-rural divide (making *houkou* registration reform an urgent task) so it does not determine status; and 3) a win-win perspective in global trade that goes beyond short-term gains to long-term benefits for all concerned.

Reality stares us in the face. Why maintain sovereignty lines that are leftovers from another era? The Kurds, Shiites, and Sunnis are three political entities that could very well administer their own affairs so why should we insist on boundaries that the Germans, Brits, French, and Dutch delineated, which even strongman Saddam Hussein could not keep intact? Ah, the oil.

Oh, well, my own Earth Dream proceeds from and broadens China's. My earthrise citizenship involves 7 billion people on behalf of 8.7 million earth species, and counting. It removes the artificial classes of eco-political groups that determines membership to the first, second, third, and other worlds. My value scale is leveled on creatures, not nations. Finally, it requires a win-win situation rather than the lose-lose competition on economic growth. The Earth, dude, and the health of every creature in it: my glocal mission.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Startups: More data, same file

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

One of the highlights of this year has been watching my friends bring two new businesses to fruition. Come to think of it, that's the only highlight of the year. Oh well, I'll take vicarious success over none at all. And at least it provides a couple more points to heap into the file on startup businesses and entrepreneurship.

Although these are worthy cases, they're hardly glamorous: Both businesses are prosaic. One is a restaurant. The other is a trading company that buys simple consumer goods in one place and sells them in another place, doing the old "Buy for one dollar, sell for two dollars, and make a lousy 1 percent" routine.

Both businesses are in the Pacific region. Neither is on Saipan. Neither differs from the overall trends I've seen in startups over the past few years. And, despite their successes, neither really inspires me to craft an elegantly arranged layout of the gig, so I'm just going to offer some random points.

Taking even the simplest cut at this requires drawing up some basic categories, so I'll lump business tasks into three basic categories: Finance, marketing, and operations. That's not some sacred division there; it's just how I slice things up.

In today's office-based culture, finance and marketing get all the glamour. After all, everybody relishes the idea of being clever with their computers. These roles are more appealing than operational tasks such as driving a delivery truck at 3am, or mopping the floors of a store when the janitor fails to show up, or tending the deep-fryer when the kitchen staff is falling behind.

Still, from what I've seen, operations are indeed the key to getting a business launched. This jibes with the old military adage, "Amateurs talk strategy. Professionals talk logistics."

Of the successful entrepreneurs I've known, the vast majority were tradesmen who were used to getting their hands dirty. They knew how to get things done. So, despite all the glamour and glitz pertaining to superstar fortunes in the high-tech industry these days, I suspect there's still a lot of action in the quiet and unglamorous industries.

Here's something I've noticed: In the past few years, all of the successful startups I've seen first-hand were family affairs, sometimes involving as many as three generations for funding, labor, and management. The family as a means of capital allocation and risk sharing is a time-tested model. The East and the West, however, have two very different outlooks in this matter.

In the cases I've seen first-hand, successful startups usually saw encouraging results soon after opening, or had even lined up solid action before they opened. Reciprocally, none of my pals have managed to turn around new businesses that suffered sinking fortunes upon opening. There are, of course, famous examples of well-funded and sophisticated companies that strategically bled cash as they carved out market share; Amazon.com is one great example. But this kind of high-stakes, deep-pocket action is far beyond the context of the small business startups that most folks can undertake.

Meanwhile, I'll note that the successful entrepreneurs I've known have shared some similar traits.

All of them recognize that people are the basis of any business. In fact, all are "people" people who have good manners and pleasant personalities. This is, I'll note, a far different thing than being a back-slapper or a hustler.

Another trait I noticed is that none of them ever put much, if any, credence in forecasts or projections for a raw start-up. They understand that trial-and-error is the only way to test a concept. That's why they are fast to follow-up on a winning idea and just as fast to fold a losing hand.

Most, or maybe all, of the successful entrepreneurs I've known wound up starting multiple businesses. In most cases, this worked out well. But in a few cases, especially when taking on a business in a glamorous industry, the results have been lousy. I've been the numbers guy in some of these arrangements, aviation in particular, and it never ceased to amaze me how capital that should know better would chase high risks and low rewards; it's supposed to be the other way around!

Well, so much for my latest random walk through this topic. Has 2014, so far, at least, presented any new insights in this realm? No, but it has been consistent with the old insights, which is something worth heeding.

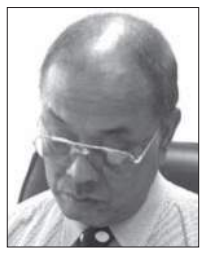
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

First comment

The first comment on the proposed Center for Marianas Trench Monument should be to refer to it as the "Mariana Trench Monument." This is important as there is no such thing as "Marianas." These islands are known as the Mariana Islands.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Issues to seriously ponder



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Policies, specifically their preparation, is vital for two reasons: 1). It could set the stage for opportunities to flourish; or 2). Things wither and slide into unsolicited hardship against the intended recipients—people. Like water, it can support the boat or sink it.

Today, our issues have become more complicated and difficult, given the competition for attention from a myriad of collateral issues. It makes it even more vital that we proactively partake in their formulation if only to ensure the long-term wellbeing of our people. The required participation is the reality we all must embrace responsibly. Critical thinking contributions are needed on each issue of substance, reflecting fully analyzed viewpoints.

For instance, a serious issue is the fiscal (financial posture) of the NMI government. Has revenue generation improved significantly allowing the local government to meet its many obligations? Or is it bankrupt absent an official admission?

The projected revenue for fiscal year 2015 is around $135 million. Subtract 80 percent for government salaries, including 15 percent for the Public School System. It leaves a balance of some $7 million for everything else or All Others.

Retirement: For the impending fiscal year, the settlement fund (SF) needs some $25 million to pay the 75 percent in retirees' pension pay. If retirees are lucky and the balance of 25 percent is "restored," it means the SF needs $56 million for this purpose. With a balance of $7 million how does the NMI pay for even for the 75 percent or $25 million? Simple arithmetic says it all.

Though the retirement program is history (for former DB and DC members), the unfunded liability of the Settlement Fund (for current retirees) is about $791 million. This fiscal challenge is like a two-headed snake that keeps returning every year. With an economy drowning it's highly questionable we could meet SF obligation. It looks fiscally troubling, economically devastating! Yep! Our politicians ruined it all!

Healthcare: With major reduction in revenue generation, the challenge turns to paying for healthcare (CHC) that needs an annual budget of at least $32 million. Add health cost for employees and retirees who have opted out of their healthcare policies. Many have done just this for purposes of survival. Understandably, many have moved to Medicaid. This shift would drain the program of funds sooner than later. Would we have the funds for this eventuality?

Poor fiscal posture: The NMI's fiscal posture is beyond anemic. It's on life support system and the financial prognosis doesn't look good in terms of recovery anytime soon. There are ways to dealing with the pile of fiscal mess and it takes resolute resolve to implement any of them in order to stay above water. The other partner, private industries, is floating with the tide of uncertainty to see if there's any shift in the superstorm of negative investments.

Beyond government as the largest employer, is there anything else we could hang our hat on in terms of real time economic opportunities? Maybe there's still hope amidst the grand dystopian *mañana*! Economic dystopia simply means, "Where nothing works!"

Clarion on policy: From the way things have gone where we've placed the "bull before the cart" or the "bull dislodging from the cart" the former headed elsewhere while the latter careens into doom's land, you know this teeny paradise is in shambles. Something's gone woefully wrong!

Interesting the apparent misperception about the dictates of policy. In simple terms, policy sets the tone for investment and every other card being shuffled by key players. I fail to see where we did realistic "due diligence" addressing real time fiscal or economic disaster. Everything has been and continues to be on an "ad hoc" basis or instant gratification. In short, we plan *by* rather than plan *for* eventualities. There's an obvious need for clarion on policies.

Persistent fiscal fiasco shows that politicians just don't have the wisdom and foresight to work responsibly on measures to rebuild investments. Sickening how policymaking is reduced to its infantile stage! Enough is enough!

Marpi land: The sword of vicious political corruption has started exploding thunderously in midair. Interesting the chime or assertion that decision on land requirement by Best Sunshine be premised on "What's in the best interest of the NMI." I respectfully disagree!

Focus must zero in on what's in the best interest of the indigenous people. Shove the views of politicians aside and let BS deal with the real landowners. We know what we want and most of what have been spouted is so far removed from our aspirations. In short, what matters is the indigenous prism—how it wishes to see the use of its land for the advancement of its wellbeing.

If Best Sunshine has "our interest" at heart, would it be pushing for a virulent destruction of investment stability by seeking to pluck Kan Pacific from Marpi? Does it have any respect for indigenous aspiration to ensure investment stability? Screw the warped views of woefully shallow politicians. The indigenous people can dispose of its affairs competently!

Sweet potatoes: In my younger days, I'd watch my grand auntie plant sweet potatoes on empty spaces around the yard. Each harvest time, she'd cook it in coconut milk. She hands me a plateful. It was tasty and nutritious too.

Soon, I started helping her. Harvest time comes and my share is a fourth of a sack of sweet potatoes. I started my own at the backyard. She smiled when she saw me working on my own tiny garden.

Moral: With patience, humility and diligence we can plant our own fields of sweet potatoes (investments) so our haul with our children would be tenfold. Let's do comprehensive planning for it. It can be done!

MUSEUM

From Page 10

the country, from hurricane-ravaged New Orleans to the neighborhood soup kitchen.

But, too often, that humanity feels so fragile. A report released in June by Pew Research's Center for the People & the Press found that we are more polarized than at any point in the last two decades. We give lip service to "community" but between 25 to 30 percent of the 10,000 adults Pew surveyed find our political opponents so misguided that that they would be "unhappy" if an immediate family member married someone from the other side. Is it any wonder that smart people don't run for office or that young adults are too cynical to vote?

Certainly, technology has made it easier for us to scrape bottom. Social media are a crowded place these days, requiring combatants to be increasingly outrageous. Anxiety—not answers—gets you trending on Twitter. Think Donald Trump's view that doctors who help fight Ebola "must suffer the consequences."

Events of the summer—the minimum wage debate, the immigration crisis and the unrest in Ferguson, Mo.—have exposed a particularly vile side of America.

But one cannot spend any time in that somber place in lower Manhattan without realizing that there is enough hatred of Americans in the world without Americans constantly sniping at each other.

As we go into the midterm elections, let's use this upcoming anniversary to change the corrosive narrative. What better tribute to the 9/11 victims than tuning out the static, tuning up our national character and carrying ourselves with just a little more dignity.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

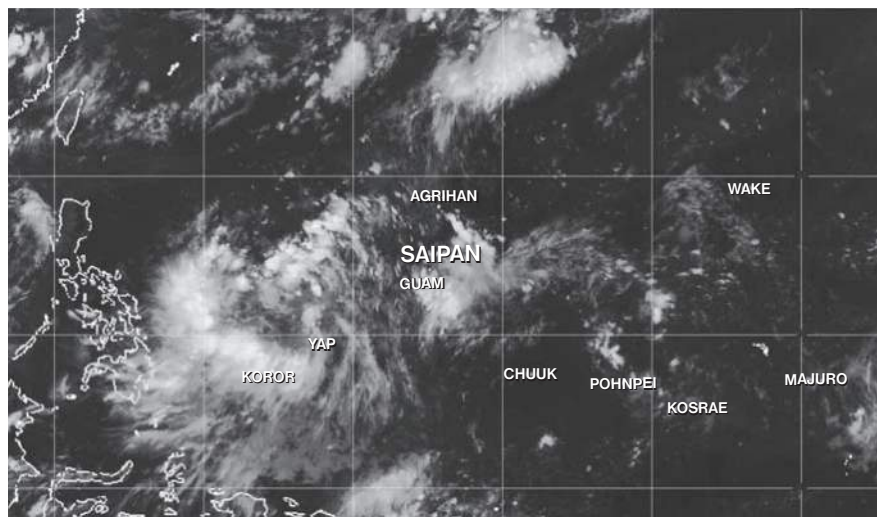
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲61	▼56
Beijing	Showers	▲78	▼63
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼69
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼42
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
New York	Thundershowers	▲87	▼62
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼61
Paris	Sunny	▲73	▼55
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼67
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼61
Salem	Sunny	▲82	▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼60
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼64
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲91	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical depression 15W is centered 90 miles north-northeast of Yap near 11N139E moving west-northwest at 18 mph with maximum sustained winds 30 mph. Scattered to numerous showers and a few thunderstorms around Yap and Koror are between 5N and 14N from 130E to 141E. For information on TD15W, see JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and NWS products issued under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Convergent southwest winds well south of Koror are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 3N from 130E to 135E. Convergent south winds and upper-level divergence east of Iwo To Island are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 22N and 25N from 142E to 147E. An upper-level low centered east of Guam at 13N151E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas and north of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 10N and 15N from 146E to 157E. An active surface trough east of Majuro runs from 3N174E to 6N180E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are within 175 miles of the trough axis.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:55 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:08 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
10:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:54 PM	8:52 AM
Saturday	9:43 PM	9:49 AM
Sunday	10:33 PM	10:45 AM
Monday	11:22 PM	11:38 AM
Tuesday		12:30 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Convicted 'ice' trafficker files malpractice suit vs lawyer

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Chinese national slapped with a 28-year prison term in 2011 for trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" has filed a legal malpractice suit against his former counsel, Stephen C. Woodruff, after learning more than a year later that the now disbarred lawyer failed to file a notice of appeal.

Believing that an appeal was being processed, Qun Yu, also known as Papasang, said he had no contact with Woodruff for over a year, although he attempted to contact him several times.

The Superior Court has appointed attorney Stephen J. Nutting as Yu's new counsel.

Early this week, Nutting filed in court a petition for writ of habeas corpus. Nutting also filed a motion for certification to file an appeal due to the ineffective assistance of counsel received resulting from Woodruff's failure to timely file an appeal.

Nutting said Woodruff's failure to file a notice of appeal constituted ineffective assistance of counsel and legal malpractice.

When asked for comments, Woodruff said yesterday there was no ineffective assistance of counsel in this case.

"It is true that I never filed a notice of appeal; however, the rules expressly provide that the time for filing an appeal does not begin to run until the last post-trial motion is decided," Woodruff said.

He said he brought two post-trial motions in Yu's case: one for a new trial, and the other for judgment of acquittal notwithstanding the jury's verdict.

He said the court denied the motion for a new trial and, to his knowledge, did not enter an order denying the motion for judgment of acquittal.

Woodruff said the statement in Nutting's papers that Yu had no contact with him for over a year is "flat out false."

Yu was convicted in April 2011 of two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, one count of conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance, three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of possession of a controlled substance, one count of obstruction of justice, and one count of resisting arrest. Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Yu to 28 years in prison.

In his declaration to support the petition and motion, Yu said after his trial and sentencing, he told Woodruff that he wanted to appeal the matter.

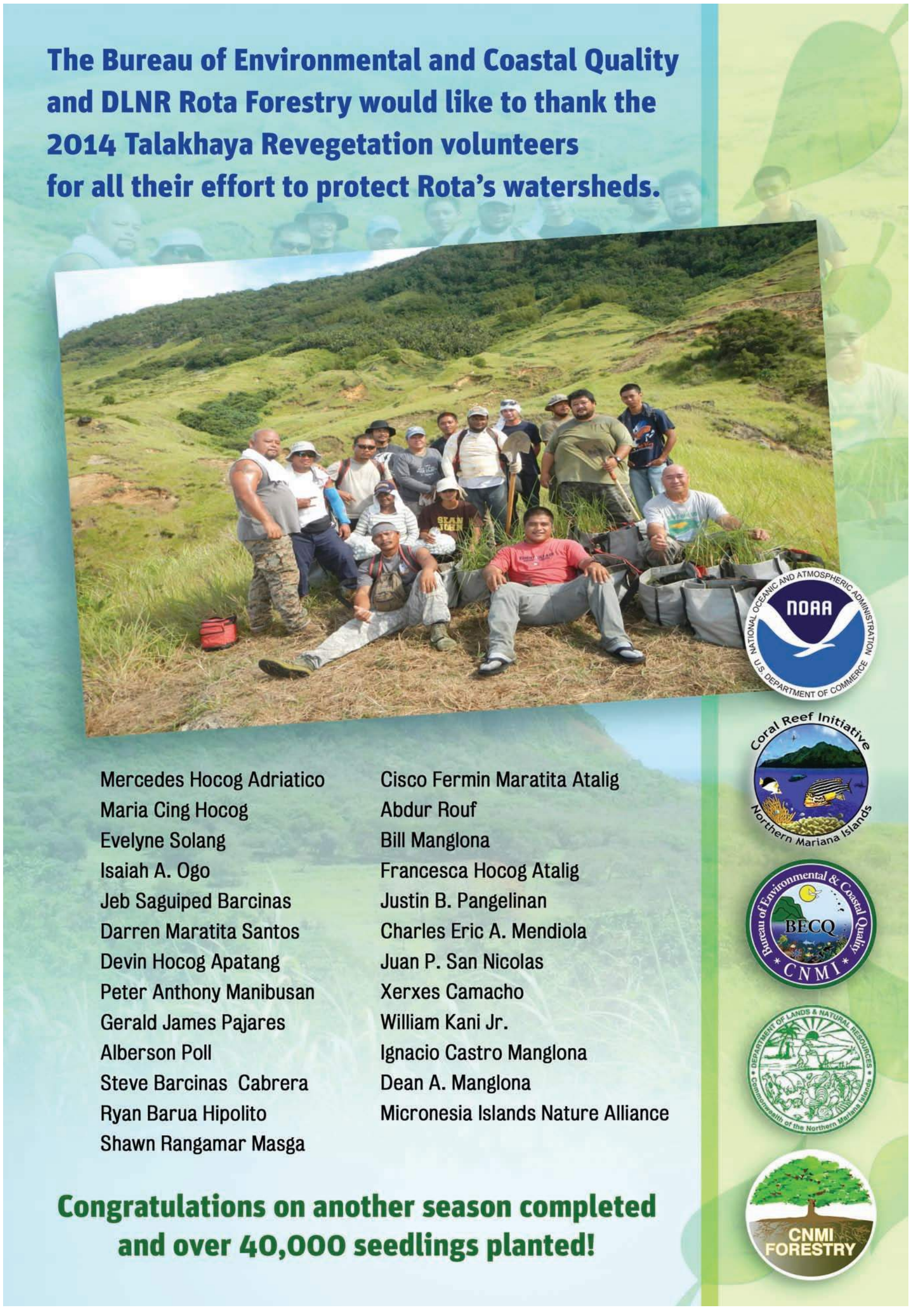
Yu said Woodruff told him he would file an appeal and that it would take a year or more to complete.

More than a year after his conviction, Yu said he was finally able to discuss his appeal with Woodruff. He said Woodruff told him that he had failed to file the notice of appeal and it was now too late to appeal his sentence or conviction.

"I have since learned that Mr. Woodruff has been disbarred from the practice of law in the Northern Mariana Islands," he said.

After learning that his appeal had not been filed, Yu said he contacted the court to ask that another lawyer be appointed to handle his case. Yu said he also filed a complaint with the CNMI Bar Association against Woodruff for malpractice.

Yu said that after discussing his legal options with Nutting over the course of several meetings, he asked Nutting to file a petition for a writ of habeas corpus and to certify his case for appeal, due to Woodruff's failure to timely file a notice of appeal. Wiseman set a hearing on Yu's petition and motion for Sept. 17, 2014, at 1:30pm.



MCS to use new tool to improve student literacy

Mount Carmel School faculty, staff, and administrators recently participated in a training seminar for a new online tool that will be used to improve student literacy. The tool, Achieve3000, is a cloud-based suite of interactive readings, formative assessments, and other resources that promote differentiated instruction and interdisciplinary reading for all grade levels. Facilitated by one of Achieve3000's Curriculum and Implementation managers, Michelle Poleyumptewa, M.Ed., the training introduced school personnel to the many features available both online and offline.

"This tool will go a long way toward helping our students learn functional literacy that will stick more," said school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "What makes Achieve 3000 great is that it cuts across the curriculum into all subjects, thus making it clear that all teachers are responsible for literacy, not just English teachers."

Fifth-grade teacher HeJin Lee is very excited about using Achieve3000. Lee said, "Students will be able to learn and read a wider variety of books. I look forward to using it, especially because it has many different and appropriate reading levels for students."

In addition to teachers and students, once fully implemented, parents will also be able to use the tool to interface with teachers and monitor their children's performance. That feature of Achieve3000 will strengthen the partnership between teachers, students, and parents in order to enhance student literacy.

The school's use of Achieve3000 is made possible by support from the CNMI Public School System and its Title I program, which funded both the training and the site license. Now that training has been completed, students' data will be uploaded to the Achieve3000 site so that teachers can begin assigning subject-specific and age-appropriate reading work for students.

According to Achieve3000's website, the company "serves more than one million students across America." The company's site also notes, "Achieve3000 is leading the way toward helping every student become independent, reaching higher standards, and becoming prepared for college and the workforce." ***(MCS)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety
Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

September 12, 2014

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Mr. SUNG SOO LIM	07/18/2014 SSm-2014-X-032	Two Storey Building	Garapan	Shoreline APC	Approved (09/03/2014)
2. USA FANTHER	08/19/2014 SWm-2014-X-037	Concrete Wall Fence	Susupe Lake	Wet Land APC	Approved (09/10/2014)*
3. SAIPAN TOP DIVERS	08/18/2014 SLRm-2014-X-038	Scuba Dive Operation	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (09/02/2014)*
4. SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL	08/29/2014 SLRm-2014-X-040	Scuba Dive Operation	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review
5. DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	09/02/2014 SSm-2011-X-058(A)	Barbeque Pit	Sugar Dock	Amendment	Under Review
6. D. T. C.	09/05/2014 SSm-2014-X-041	Photographic Activities	Shoreline	Shoreline APC	Approved (09/08/2014)*
7. DEEP BLUE DIVING	09/05/2014 SLRm-2014-X-042	Scuba Dive Operation	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (09/09/2014)*
8. MARIANAS ISLAND TRAING AND TESTING (MITT) http://mitt-eis.com		FEDERAL CONSISTENCY	SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA, & FDM	FEDERAL CONSISTENCY	UNDER REVIEW
9. NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE- RULE FOR WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES		FEDERAL CONSISTENCY	CNMI	FEDERAL CONSISTENCY	UNDER REVIEW

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Free heatlh screening on Sunday

The Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs, Ltd. is inviting the public to its 3rd Quarterly Community Health Screening on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014, from 7:30am to 12pm, at the Minatchom Atdao in Susupe.

The free services offered are hypertension check, diabetes screening, and eye check up.

These services are made possible by St. Paul Episcopal Church, Hardt Eye Clinic, Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs, Ltd., Division of Public Health, NMC College of Nursing, and other volunteers and individuals.

"We encourage all to come and be part of our health and wellness program. Do not eat a heavy breakfast, we"ll prepare hot soup for everyone," said MAHAL president Rene Reyes. ***(PR)***

UOG creates online academic quality survey

The University of Guam is asking the community to participate in an online Academic Quality Survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine the community's impression of how well UOG is supporting student learning. The survey will be used to: ensure faculty, student and community input; assist in identifying key issues regarding campus capacity; and assist in identifying areas needing improvement. The link to the survey page is www.uog.edu/2014-aqs. The survey should take about five minutes to complete. ***(UOG)***

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* Nissan Rogue Select retail price $22,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $364.26 or $168.12 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,855.60.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

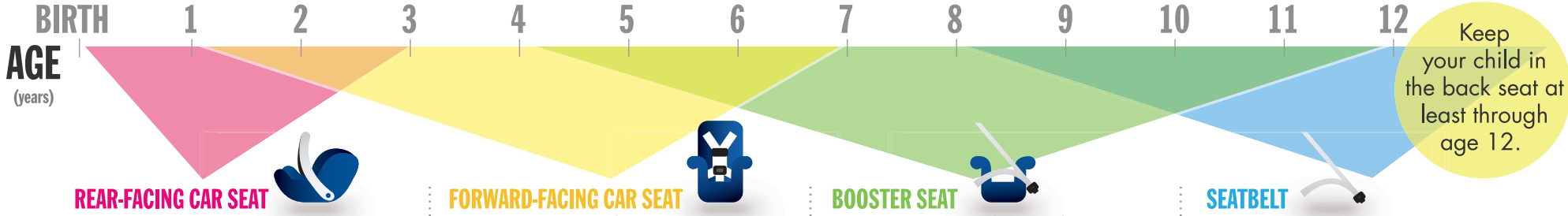
NATIONAL/CNMI CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

SEPTEMBER 14 – 20, 2014

NHTSA www.nhtsa.gov

Car Seat Recommendations for Children

- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat.
There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

BOOSTER SEAT

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

SEATBELT

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

DESCRIPTION (RESTRAINT TYPE)

A **REAR-FACING CAR SEAT** is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.

A **FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT** has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.

A **BOOSTER SEAT** positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.

A **SEAT BELT** should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

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CAR SEAT COURTESY CHECK-UP – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013 • 7:00AM - 12:00PM, SABALU FARMERS MARKET, SUSUPE

For more information please contact CNMI Department of Public Safety–Highway Safety Office at Saipan 664-9001/9085 • Tinian 433-9222/2041 • Rota 532-9433/9530

The Department of Public Safety is an equal opportunity provider and employer

PACIFIC ISLAND DELEGATION WARNS WHITE HOUSE:

Marine monument expansion will fail US fishermen

HONOLULU—A delegation from the U.S. Pacific islands, including fisheries managers and commercial fishing industry representatives, met yesterday with the White House Council on Environmental Quality, including Counselor to the President John Podesta. The group conveyed its concerns for an executive proposal that would bar fishermen from nearly 700,000 miles of vitally historic fishing grounds.

The delegation from the Pacific islands included leaders from Hawaii, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. They expressed their opposition to President Obama's proposal to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

Arnold Palacios, CNMI Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and WPRFMC chair, described the meeting as "a frank discussion," at which the delegation from the Western Pacific shared "concerns that the current proposal is destined to fail our fishermen and environment."

According to the WPRFMC and others at the meeting, the proposed Monument expansion would unfairly penalize the U.S. Pacific islands and American fishermen and fail at its conservation objectives.

The meeting was an important opportunity for Executive Branch officials to hear firsthand about these issues. Besides Podesta, other senior officials in attendance were Council on Environmental Quality acting chair Michael Boots, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Daniel Ashe, and Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Dr. Christine Blackburn, among others.

According to the WPRFMC, the Obama Administration overlooked key local stakeholders and regional fishery managers in the original planning of the proposal, which in turn produced a plan that neglects the needs and concerns of the region and its vitally important fishing industry.

Sean Martin, of the Hawaii Longline Association, remarked that "this attempt at crafting an environmental legacy for our nation will ultimately prove to accomplish the opposite by disenfranchising our own fishermen and outsourcing domestic seafood demand to nations whose standards for environmental protections pale in comparison to our own."

Opposition to the proposed Monument expansion centers around arguments that it disregards already effective marine protections, unfairly harms American fishermen, and outsources domestic seafood demand to nations with poor records of environmental stewardship.

Kitty Simonds, executive director of the WPRFMC, explained, "Our current management systems are a global guide and a living legacy for responsible resource management. Our regulations are the strictest in the world."

Added to that, say representatives from the WPRFMC, is the unfortunate reality that the size of an expanded Monument would be too large to enforce, likely leading to exploitation of the Monument by foreign competitors for illegal fishing. Currently, 91 percent of seafood consumed in the United States is imported, with up to a third potentially sourced from illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

The delegates from the U.S. Pacific islands also say that the marine species for which protections are sought are highly migratory and will not gain protections from an expanded Monument. For our fishermen, they argue, the expansion will mean substantial cost increases, both in terms of fuel to travel further out to sea and for entry to other nations' fishing grounds, for which our fishermen are required to pay large fees. They noted that fishing access to the high seas is also restricted by international fishery management organizations, to which the United States is a party. Representatives from the WPRFMC further explained that U.S. Pacific island fishermen are also being squeezed out of U.S. waters by other existing marine national monuments, national marine sanctuaries, large fishing vessel exclusion zones and no-access military areas.

Claire Poumele, director of the American Samoa Port Authority and a WPRFMC member, said the Monument expansion would have catastrophic consequences to the territory's tuna canning operations, which employs a third of the population.

But at the meeting, government officials reaffirmed their support for the Monument's expansion; however, they did not explain their rationale or expound upon any supporting facts. Podesta expressed his opinion that large marine protected areas are valuable to the nation's conservation objectives.

The WPRFMC is a regional fishery management council established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976. The Council has successfully implemented innovations in fisheries management and conservation for 35 years, including ecosystem-based fishery management plans and vessel monitoring systems. WPRFMC emphasizes public participation and the involvement of local communities in science-based fisheries management. ***(WPRFMC)***

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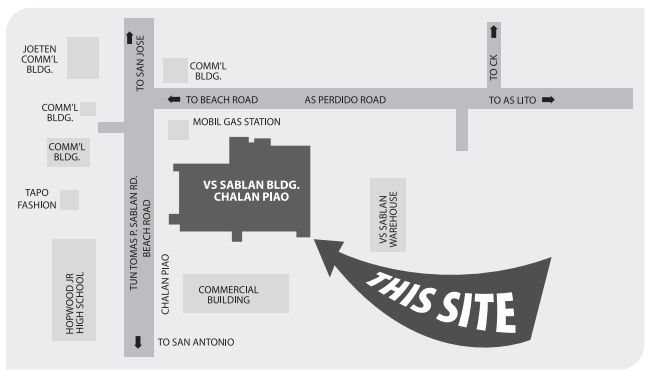

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Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-7500 Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com) or Call 234-2585/235-9020.

U.S. PROBATION OFFICE
Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:
Vacancy Announcement No. GUP 14-002

Position Title:	**U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Officer Assistant**
Type of Appointment:	Full-Time Permanent
Classification Level:	Court Personnel System - Grade CL-24
Salary Range:	$37,596 to $45,196 (Promotion Potential up to CL-26 without further competition) (Salary commensurate with experience plus 13.84% COLA, which is subject to change)
Area of Consideration:	All Sources
Opening Date:	September 10, 2014
Closing Date:	October 3, 2014 at 4:00pm
Location of Vacancy:	**Saipan**

Position Overview
The Probation/Pretrial Services Officer Assistant (PPSOA) serves in the judiciary law enforcement position under the direction and guidance of a Probation/Pretrial Services Officer (PPSO) or Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer (DCUSPO). The incumbent provides technical and operational support and assistance to probation/pretrial services officers in a variety of areas, including assisting with compiling information for investigations, assisting with and monitoring select offenders/defendants, coordinating with collateral agencies, drafting reports and correspondence, and assisting with similar operational duties. The incumbent will work in the U.S. Probation Office, District of the Northern Mariana Islands and the incumbent can also be assigned to work in the U.S. Probation Office, District of Guam.

Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible to work in the United States. There is a promotion potential up to Classification Level CL-26, without further competition, when personnel classification requirements have been met.

Application Procedure
Qualified applicants must submit an original and two (2) copies of each of the following: 1) Letter of interest; 2) Resume; 3) Letters from three professional and/or personal references; and 4) A completed Federal Judicial Branch Application for Employment (AO 78). For all inquiries, please call Frank Lizama at (671) 473-9209.

The complete announcement, AO 78 application form, and position description for Probation/Pretrial Services Officer Assistant Classification Level CL-24 are available on our website at http://www.gup.uscourts.gov. The U.S. Probation Office reserves the right to amend or withdraw any announcement without written notice to applicants.

All application documents must be received at the U.S. Probation Office no later than Friday, October 3, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Applications will not be accepted via email or facsimile. Incomplete and untimely applications will not be considered. The most qualified applicants will be invited to, and must be physically present for, a personal interview. Travel expenses and relocation expenses will not be reimbursed. All application information will be subject to verification.

The U.S. Probation Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Marianas Trench Monument Advisory Council (MTMAC) invites the public to provide input on a proposed Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitor Center. Recommendations will be collected from the public regarding the purpose, location, and funding of the visitor center at three meetings scheduled as follows:

Date	Location	Time
Tuesday, September 16	Fleming Hotel, Tinian	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 17	American Memorial Park, Saipan	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Monday, September 22	Mayor's Office, Rota	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For additional information regarding the **MTMAC** public meetings, please contact **DLNR** at **664-6000**.

Training academy graduates put certification to good use

Recent graduates of the newly launched American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute certification program have found their industry training a great investment.

Two of the inaugural graduates who relocated to Guam to attend college have secured employment at the Outrigger and Palmridge Hotels. Other graduates who have remained in the CNMI have been able to secure jobs in hotels throughout the island.

The certification courses, offered by the Latte Training Academy, began the trainings in May of this year in partnership with the CNMI Public School System.

The non-profit training organization has partnered with PSS to offer the Hotel and Hospitality Certification program at Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Saipan Southern High School for the fall and spring semesters. The certification program, which is in high demand by hotels and resorts, will soon be offered to the general public.

"We are excited about the success that our inaugural graduates have realized as a result of their hard work and we look forward to offering the certification courses to a wider segment of our workforce population. The Latte Training Academy was recently approved as a training provider with the CNMI Department of Labor and is planning to launch a training course in early October 2014. We will be able to offer the AHLEI Certification courses to those in our community who are eligible through the various CNMI Department of Labor programs," said Latte Training Academy president Arielle Buyum.

The Latte Training Academy, which has a goal of developing the CNMI's workforce, has seen a steady demand for the certification courses by hotels and resorts throughout the island. The organization has established relationships with the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to help streamline the pool of qualified, skilled, and competent employees in the hotel and hospitality industry.

"Many of our partners recognize the quality of the AHLEI Programs as the trainings and certification courses are considered the gold standard of the industry. We have partnered with many on-island establishments to allow our students to engage in a hands-on experience during the courses. This helps bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application and also gives employers the opportunity to evaluate our student's fit into their organizational demands," said Jim Arenovski, the academy's exclusive training partner.

To learn more about the programs, interested participants are encouraged to contact the organization at lattetrainingacademy@outlook.com or by visiting https://www.ahlei.org/Certifications. ***(PR)***

$4M eyed for Guam maternity ward facelift

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A Guam doctor is pushing a hospital in the U.S. territory to update its maternity ward for the first time in 25 years.

Dr. Thomas Shieh, an obstetrician and gynecologist, prompted lawmakers to introduce a bill that would allow Guam Memorial Hospital to borrow up to $4 million to renovate its labor and delivery ward.

The maternity ward isn't able to follow national standards, Shieh told *Pacific Daily News*. He said pregnant women should labor, deliver and recover in one room. But at the hospital, they are transferred about four to five times. That's because there's one labor and delivery room, six labor rooms, three delivery rooms and three postpartum beds. The hospital delivers an average of 10 babies daily.

He said it's inhumane to constantly move a pregnant woman in pain.

When pregnant women are in pain, it's also difficult to move them around, said Apple Guillermo, a labor and delivery nurse. "We really need it," she said of renovations.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to my grandma, Isabel V. Camacho! Hope you enjoy your day. Thank you for everything. We love you always. Greetings come from Nikki Marie and Zion Jay-Ross.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday, Ghel Mark Cabrera! May you have many more to come, God bless and enjoy your special day! Continue to be the awesome person that you are. Greetings come from team barcode , friends, and family.

ANNIVERSARY SHOUTOUT

Happy anniversary to my loving husband! Thank you for 16 wonderful years and for everything you do for your little family. We love you always.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Your Child at 1 Year

Child's Name _____ Child's Age _____ Today's Date _____

How your child plays, learns, speaks, and acts offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.

Check the milestones your child has reached by his or her 1st birthday. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

What Most Babies Do at this Age:

Social/Emotional

- ❑ Is shy or nervous with strangers
- ❑ Cries when mom or dad leaves
- ❑ Has favorite things and people
- ❑ Shows fear in some situations
- ❑ Hands you a book when he wants to hear a story
- ❑ Repeats sounds or actions to get attention
- ❑ Puts out arm or leg to help with dressing
- ❑ Plays games such as "peek-a-boo" and "pat-a-cake"

Language/Communication

- ❑ Responds to simple spoken requests
- ❑ Uses simple gestures, like shaking head "no" or waving "bye-bye"
- ❑ Makes sounds with changes in tone (sounds more like speech)
- ❑ Says "mama" and "dada" and exclamations like "uh-oh!"
- ❑ Tries to say words you say

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- ❑ Explores things in different ways, like shaking, banging, throwing
- ❑ Finds hidden things easily
- ❑ Looks at the right picture or thing when it's named
- ❑ Copies gestures
- ❑ Starts to use things correctly; for example, drinks from a cup, brushes hair
- ❑ Bangs two things together
- ❑ Puts things in a container, takes things out of a container
- ❑ Lets things go without help
- ❑ Pokes with index (pointer) finger
- ❑ Follows simple directions like "pick up the toy"

Act Early by Talking to Your Child's Doctor if Your Child:

- ❑ Doesn't crawl
- ❑ Can't stand when supported
- ❑ Doesn't search for things that she sees you hide.
- ❑ Doesn't say single words like "mama" or "dada"
- ❑ Doesn't learn gestures like waving or shaking head
- ❑ Doesn't point to things
- ❑ Loses skills he once had

Tell your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay for this age, and talk with someone in your community who is familiar with services for young children in your area, such as your state's public early intervention program. For more information, go to **www.cdc.gov/concerned** or call **1-800-CDC-INFO.**

Adapted from CARING FOR YOUR BABY AND YOUNG CHILD: BIRTH TO AGE 5, Fifth Edition, edited by Steven Shelov and Tanya Remer Altmann © 1991, 1993, 1998, 2004, 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and BRIGHT FUTURES: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SUPERVISION OF INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS, Third Edition, edited by Joseph Hagan, Jr., Judith S. Shaw, and Paula M. Duncan, 2008, Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics. This milestone checklist is not a substitute for a standardized, validated developmental screening tool.

HOW IS YOUR BABY GROWING?

If you have any concerns about your child's development, contact the Children's Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) at 664-4841/42/43/44

Printing funded by the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant.

www.cdc.gov/actearly | 1-800-CDC-INFO

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Business

Apple pushes digital wallet with Apple Pay

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple is betting that people want to pay with a tap of the phone rather than a swipe of the card.

The technology company on Tuesday introduced a new digital wallet service called Apple Pay that is integrated with its Passbook credential-storage app and its fingerprint ID security system.

The announcement came as Apple introduced several new products including a new, larger iPhone 6 and a watch. Apple Pay is designed to let iPhone 6 owners use their smartphones to pay for purchases at brick-and-mortar stores as well as online via apps. The company says it's easier and more secure than using a credit or debit card. And it puts Apple in direct competition with services like PayPal and Google Wallet.

AP

Apple CEO Tim Cook introduces the new Apple Pay product on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, in Cupertino, Calif.

So-called mobile proximity payments are expected to grow exponentially over the next few years. Citi Investment Research analyst Mark May said they could grow from $1 billion in 2013 to $58.4 billion by 2017. Still, consumers will have to weigh the convenience of not pulling out a card with the possible danger of storing important financial information on their phones, particularly as retailers like Target and Home Depot report data breaches, and hackers crack celebrities' iCloud accounts.

In stores, the system uses a technology called near-field communication, which allows mobile phones to communicate with other devices at close range. Many Android phones already have a near-field communication antenna, but iPhones have not until now. Users will pay by holding a phone close to a contactless reader with their finger on the touch ID fingerprint system. It's also set to work with the Apple Watch when that debuts in 2015.

"Apple Pay will forever change the way we pay for things," said Apple CEO Tim Cook.

Apple addressed security concerns Tuesday, saying Apple Pay is even safer than using a plastic card. Eddy Cue, Apple's senior vice president of Internet software and services, said credit card information will be stored on the phone via a secure chip and payments will use a one-time security code. The Find My iPhone service can erase the data if the phone gets lost or stolen—canceling a card will not be necessary. The service will be able to store Visa, MasterCard and American Express credit card information.

Currency question at heart of Scottish debate

LONDON (AP)—In for a penny, in for a pound.

There'll be no going back if Scotland votes for independence from the United Kingdom on Sept. 18.

Opinion polls showing that may happen have prompted investors to sell off the British pound. If a knockout blow is dealt to Scotland's 307-year union with England, that selling could accelerate as the U.K. plunges into a constitutional crisis.

The fate of the pound, which is also known as sterling and is one of the most tangible links of the union, will be front and center in any separation proceedings, as it has been during the campaign.

The nationalists, led by Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond, hope Scotland will still use the pound through a currency union with what's left of the U.K.- Wales, Northern Ireland and England. The main British political parties, notably the Conservatives and Labour, say that's not going to happen.

Enmeshed are other complexities, such as the division of the U.K.'s 1.3 trillion pounds ($2.1 trillion) or so debt mountain and whether Scotland would be part of the European Union.

Uncertainty reigns—a toxic backdrop for the world's fourth-most traded currency. With polls showing the referendum too close to call, the pound has fallen almost 3 cents this week to a 10-month low of $1.6052 Wednesday.

"Huge uncertainties connected with the costs of separation, defense policy, the currency regime in Scotland and the political fall-out in the U.K. would unlikely be resolved quickly and so volatility is likely to stay at heightened levels," said Jane Foley, senior currency strategist at Rabobank International.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Spanish banking titan Emilio Botin dead at age 79

MADRID (AP)—Spanish banking magnate Emilio Botin, who built the country's Banco Santander into a global financial giant and was widely seen as the nation's most influential business leader, has died of a heart attack, the company said Wednesday. He was 79. Banco Santander's board of directors unanimously agreed to appoint Botin's eldest daughter Ana to replace him as chair, the company said in a statement. Aged 53, Ana Botin was CEO of Santander UK in London. Born into a family of bankers, Botin was known for his hands-on leadership. He turned Banco Santander, previously run by his father, into Spain's biggest and then into the eurozone's largest by market capitalization through a prolonged and aggressive series of acquisitions. He also transformed it into a major bank in Latin America.

Ferrari president Montezemolo to leave the company

MARANELLO, Italy (AP)—After more than two decades presiding over one of the biggest and most successful teams in Formula One, Luca Di Montezemolo is stepping down as president of Ferrari. The 67-year-old Montezemolo spent 23 years as president of the Italian car manufacturer, and oversaw Michael Schumacher winning five F1 titles and Kimi Raikkonen another. But a recent decline, culminating at last week's Italian Grand Prix where Ferrari failed to put a car on the podium in its home race for the first time since 2008, led to Montezemolo's departure.

Legal Notice

If You Bought Sylvania Automotive Lighting

You Could Get Money from a $30 Million Settlement

A proposed Settlement has been reached with Osram Sylvania Inc. ("Sylvania"). The Settlement resolves claims that Sylvania misrepresented that certain replacement automotive lighting is brighter, provides a wider beam, and allows drivers to see farther down the road than standard halogen lighting. It also claims that Sylvania omitted material information regarding the reduced life of the replacement lighting. Sylvania denies that it did anything wrong.

Who is included in the Settlement?

The Settlement includes any person or entity who:

- Bought one or more of the following, other than for resale or distribution to another person or entity: SilverStar ULTRA®, SilverStar®, XtraVision®, or Cool Blue® replacement headlight capsules; SilverStar®, XtraVision®, or Cool Blue® sealed beam headlights; and SilverStar® fog or auxiliary lights.
- In the United States (or any territory or possession) from September 22, 2005 to July 11, 2014.

What does the Settlement provide?

A $30 million Settlement Fund will be established to make payments to eligible Class Members. Eligible individuals are expected to get a minimum $10 payment and perhaps more. All claims are limited to a single purchase only. The Settlement Fund will also be used to pay Court-approved attorneys' fees and expenses, costs of notice and Settlement administration, and incentive awards to the Class Representatives.

How can I get a payment?

If you did not receive a postcard notice in the mail, you may file a claim online or by mail by **November 14, 2014**. The Claim Form only takes 3-5 minutes for most individuals to complete.

What are my rights?

Even if you do nothing you will be bound by the Court's decisions. If you want to keep your right to sue Sylvania yourself, you must exclude yourself from the Settlement Class by **November 14, 2014**. If you stay in the Settlement Class, you may object to the Settlement by **February 9, 2015**.

The Court will hold a hearing on **March 20, 2015** to consider whether to approve the Settlement and award attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses up to one-third of the Settlement Fund, and total incentive awards up to $25,000 to the Class Representatives. You or your lawyer may appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense.

For more Settlement information or for a Claim Form:

1-866-430-8976 www.AutoLightClaims.com

Para una notificación in español, llamar o visitar nuestro website

Nation

Highway shutdown averted at Ferguson protests

BERKELEY, Mo. (AP)—A planned highway shutdown fell through Wednesday as a wall of officers in riot gear kept Ferguson police shooting protesters from walking onto Interstate 70 in a nearby St. Louis suburb during the late afternoon commute.

State troopers and St. Louis city and county officers warned the roughly 150 demonstrators who gathered to stay out of the road as they protested last month's shooting of Michael Brown, a black, unarmed 18-year-old, by a white officer. There were nearly as many officers as demonstrators.

Organizers said the protest in Berkeley was designed as an act of nonviolent civil disobedience similar to a 1999 demonstration in the same location. During that protest, hundreds of people shut down the interstate in a dispute over minority hiring for road construction projects.

Highway Patrol Sgt. Al Nothum said that 35 people were arrested, most on charges of unlawful assembly. Nothum said protesters threw rocks, concrete blocks, bricks and bottles, leading to four charges of assault on a law enforcement officer.

A smaller group later went to the nearby Ferguson police station before a heavy, late afternoon thunderstorm dispersed most of the protesters.

Obama orders airstrikes in Syria for first time

WASHINGTON (AP)—Opening a new military front in the Middle East, President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes inside Syria for the first time Wednesday night, along with expanded strikes in Iraq as part of "a steady, relentless effort" to root out Islamic State extremists and their spreading reign of terror.

"We will hunt down terrorists who threaten our country, wherever they are," Obama declared in a prime-time address to the nation from the White House. "This is a core principle of my presidency: If you threaten America, you will find no safe haven."

Obama announced that he was dispatching nearly 500 more U.S. troops to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, as well as conduct intelligence and reconnaissance flights, bringing the total number of American forces sent there this summer to more than 1,500. He also urged Congress anew to authorize a program to train and arm Syrian rebels who are fighting both the Islamic State militants and Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Obama

Obama's plans amounted to a striking shift for a president who rose to political prominence in part because of his early opposition to the Iraq war. While in office, he has steadfastly sought to wind down American military campaigns in the Middle East and avoid new wars—particularly in Syria, a country where the chaos of an intractable civil war has given the Islamic State space to thrive and move freely across the border with Iraq.

Speaking on the eve of the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Obama's plans were also an admission that years of American-led war in the Middle East have not quelled the terror threat emanating from the region.

Obama insisted that his plan to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the Islamic State militants would not involve returning U.S. combat troops to the Middle East. Even so, he acknowledged that "any time we take military action, there are risks involved, especially to the servicemen and women who carry out these missions."

"But I want the American people to understand how this effort will be different from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will not involve American combat troops fighting on foreign soil," he added.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0002-76**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-76"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., Friday, October 3, 2014**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The procurement is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED (300) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the awarded bidder for each calendar day the completion of the delivery is delayed beyond the completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, September 12, 2014,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", and all other required forms and information as required, stipulated and contained in the bid proposal documents and specifcations, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

The proposed agreement is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A bidder having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: August 22, 2014

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TINIAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0011-22**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0011-22"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., October 3, 2014**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

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FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: August 22, 2014

Asia

PH plans to give Muslims autonomous zone

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The president of the overwhelmingly Catholic Philippines proposed Wednesday to give Muslims in the south the ability to run their own government under their own flag, part of a peace plan aimed at ending a four-decade rebellion that has killed 150,000 people.

The draft law submitted by President Benigno Aquino III to Congress fleshes out a peace deal signed in March by the country's largest Muslim insurgent group, the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The autonomous region in the southern island of Mindanao, to be called Bangsamoro, would get its own 60-member parliament that would wield exclusive power over such areas as agriculture, trade, tourism and education.

Under the proposal, Islamic Shariah law would apply to Muslims in the region, but the country's justice system would continue to apply to non-Muslims. The Moro group has renounced the terrorist acts of extremist groups, including the Islamic State, which seeks to impose a harsh version of Shariah law in areas under its control in Syria and Iraq.

But at least three smaller Muslim rebel groups in the southern Philippines oppose the autonomy deal and have vowed to continue fighting for a separate Muslim homeland.

The autonomous zone, which generally covers five provinces, would replace an existing one, seen as a dismal failure. The new plan grants much more autonomy to the region, and Aquino's government also has promised to pour 17 billion pesos ($389 million) in special development funds over the next five years into the region, which has been stunted economically by the long-drawn conflict.

The new region will also get larger revenue shares, including 75 percent of national taxes, fees and charges collected by the government in Bangsamoro. The current Muslim region gets 70 percent of those taxes.

The rebels have been fighting since the 1970s for Muslim self-rule in Mindanao in an insurrection that has killed about 150,000 combatants and civilians. The United States and other Western governments have backed the autonomy deal partly to prevent the insurgency from breeding extremists who could threaten their countries.

The peace accord and the draft law came after 13 years of tough negotiations.

"This is the farthest distance we have reached in our peace journey with the MILF," presidential adviser Teresita Deles said in a statement. "Every word, line, and provision shall be subjected to the sunshine of democratic debate, where all voices will be heard, with our constitution as the guiding light."

The Moro rebel group's transformation has reaped praise amid worldwide alarm over the rise of the Islamic State group, which has been condemned for acts of brutality, including mass killings and beheadings.

The United Nations office in the Philippines praised the development as a "critical milestone" and "a crucial achievement in ensuring lasting peace and sustainable development in Mindanao and in the wider Philippines."

The broader autonomy given to the Muslim rebels mirrors the enhanced power, larger resources and other concessions granted by neighboring Indonesia to Muslim separatist rebels in its Aceh province under a 2005 peace deal. That peace pact has held.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japanese nuclear plant clears safety hurdle

TOKYO (AP)—A nuclear power plant in southern Japan won regulators' approval Wednesday under new safety standards imposed after the 2011 Fukushima disaster, a key step toward becoming the first to restart under the tighter rules. The Nuclear Regulation Authority unanimously approved an inspection report for the Sendai Nuclear Power Station's two reactors. It concluded that the reactors complied with new regulations designed to avoid major damage during disasters such as the massive earthquake and tsunami that caused meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. The plant's safety approval and its expected restart are a big boost for Japan's nuclear industry.

Rights group calls on Thai junta to end repression

BANGKOK (AP)—An international human rights group is calling on Thailand's ruling military to end what it says is a "disturbing pattern of repression" in the country. Amnesty International made the appeal in a report Thursday on the state of human rights in the Southeast Asian nation since the army seized power in a May coup. The group says 665 people have been summoned or detained by the junta so far, mostly political opponents, academics, activists and others who have protested peacefully. Although most were released within a week, Amnesty criticized the fact they were detained without charges or trials and have been forced into silence.

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The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, September 12, 2014,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", and all other required forms and information as required, stipulated and contained in the bid proposal documents and specifcations, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

The proposed agreement is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A bidder having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: August 22, 2014

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

CUC-RFEOI-14-020
Request for Expressions of Interest for Vegetation Line Clearing Services
(A Non-Binding, Informal Market Survey)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, requests "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) from qualified firms capable of providing supervision, labor, equipment, traffic control, debris removal and incidentals necessary to perform tree and brush cutting and removal service on various utility rights-of-way and utility lines in the CUC service territory.

The Request for Expressions of Interest is an exploratory project in order to survey market interest in Vegetation Line Clearing Services. It is not intended to be a formal or informal procurement process and CUC does not express or imply that any future procurement and/or acquisition process will occur, or that any preference will be given to those replying.

The CUC invites qualified firms to express their interest in performing the needed services. CUC will review all Expressions of Interests received, and based in part on these submittals, will decide on whether to outsource the Vegetation Line Clearing Services to private firms.

The CUC-RFEOI-14-020 Package will be e-mailed upon request to all interested firm, by the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:30 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Four (4) copies must be submitted by hand or courier in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFEOI-14-020" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 3, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 14, 2014**. Late submission will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 26, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Procurement & Supply Manager via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Gary Camacho, Power Division T&D Manager via email address gary.camacho@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

World

Islamic State group not an unstoppable juggernaut

BEIRUT (AP)—The Islamic State group is often described as the most fearsome jihadi outfit of all: a global menace outweighing al-Qaida, with armies trembling before its advance.

But while the group has been successful at seizing parts of Iraq and Syria, it is no unstoppable juggernaut. Lacking the major weaponry of an established military, it wields outsize influence through the fanaticism of a hard core of several thousand, capitalizing on divisions among its rivals, and disseminating terrifying videos on social media.

President Barack Obama is outlining plans Wednesday for an expanded military and political effort to combat the group in Syria and Iraq, ushering in what is likely to be a long-term engagement by the U.S. and its allies to destroy the militants in those countries.

It is useful to remember, though, that while it is a formidable force that controls roughly a third of Iraq and Syria, there also has been an inclination to exaggerate the group's capabilities.

"I think sometimes there's been a tendency to sort of overestimate the technical sophistication of the Islamic State," said Charles Lister, visiting fellow at the Brookings Doha Center.

Lister, like many other analysts, said much of the power of the Islamic State group—also known by the acronyms ISIS or ISIL—lies in its centralization of command and intense loyalty within the organization.

AP

In this undated file image posted by the Raqqa Media Center, a Syrian opposition group, on Monday, June 30, 2014, which has been verified and is consistent with other AP reporting, fighters from the Islamic State group sit on a tank during a parade in Raqqa, Syria.

That distinguishes the group from others, which are overstretched by years of conflict. In the case of the Syrian rebels, there are deep divisions that have hampered their cause.

Militants from the Islamic State group have waged an aggressive social media campaign. They have released statements with detailed information on conquests and battles, and posted high-quality videos that often provide visual proof of their activities in regions that have suffered a media vacuum recently as the risks have become too great for journalists.

In Syria, two American journalists were beheaded by the group in the past month. The killings, posted on militant websites, were shot in high definition, featured embedded soundbites from Obama, and used wireless microphones to amplify statements from the masked, English-speaking militant and his victims.

According to a senior Iraqi intelligence official, more than 27,600 Islamic State fighters are believed to be operating in Iraq, about 2,600 of whom are foreigners.

UK leader rushes to fend off Scottish independence

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP)—The British political establishment descended on Scotland on Wednesday to plead for a united United Kingdom, after polls suggested the once-fanciful notion of Scots voting to break from Britain has become a real possibility in next week's referendum.

The leaders of the three main London-based parties—all of them unpopular in Scotland—wooed skeptical Scottish voters with the fervor of a rejected lover. But some Scots seemed unmoved, and increasingly confident independence leader Alex Salmond accused his opponents of succumbing to panic.

In a rare display of cross-party unity, Prime Minister David Cameron, Labour leader Ed Miliband and Liberal Democrat chief Nick Clegg all pulled out of a weekly House of Commons question session to make a campaign dash to Scotland, as polls indicated the two sides are neck-and-neck ahead of the Sept. 18 referendum.

Cameron said Scottish independence would break his heart, in a personal plea aimed at preserving the 307-year-old Anglo-Scottish union—and preventing himself from going down in history as the last prime minister of Great Britain. He is likely to face pressure from his Conservative Party to step down if Scots vote to secede.

"I would be heartbroken ... if this family of nations is torn apart," Cameron told an invited audience at the Edinburgh headquarters of the Scottish Widows insurance firm.

WORLD BRIEFS

Kerry says US will back Iraq against militants

BAGHDAD (AP)—The United States pledged Wednesday to stand by Iraq as its new leaders pleaded for help in facing down a rampant, deadly insurgency. The assurances by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry during a daylong visit to Baghdad came as President Barack Obama prepared to outline his strategy for defeating the Islamic State militant group that has overrun wide swaths of northern Iraq and Syria. The increased devotion to Iraq and its spiraling security problems means Obama likely will spend the remaining two years of his presidency focused on a nation he campaigned to largely leave in the rear-view mirror after withdrawing American troops in 2011. "This is a fight that the Iraqi people must win, but it's also a fight that the rest of the world needs to win with them," Kerry told reporters at the close of a daylong visit to Baghdad, the first high-level meeting between the U.S. and new Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. "And it's a fight the United States and the rest of the world need to support every single step of the way."

US gives ambulances to Sierra Leone to fight Ebola

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)—As the U.S. government and the United Nations both stepped up giving Wednesday to quell the Ebola epidemic sweeping through several West African countries, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced it will spend $50 million on the international effort seeking a vaccine and other therapies. The United States donated five ambulances Wednesday to help Sierra Leone's fight against Ebola as the West African government acknowledged it can take up to 24 hours to pick up bodies in the spiraling crisis. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's donation is the U.S.-based group's largest to a humanitarian effort. The $50 million includes $10 million the foundation previously committed for emergency operations, treatment and research. The money will be used to purchase supplies and to develop vaccines, therapies and better diagnostic tools.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING FACILITIES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-15

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting proposals for the Management and Operation of the Saipan International Airport Parking Facilities for five (5) years.

The Proposal Package and Specifications will be available for pick up at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport beginning August 22, 2014.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Saipan International Airport Terminal Departure Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All proposers are requested to attend.

All proposals must be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Management and Operations of the Saipan International Airport Parking Facilities, CPA-RFP-001-15".
One original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, September 12, 2014, to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

MARK A. SCOGGINS
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner Jian Hong Zheng.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of	] Civil Action No. 14-0174
HONG MEI SUN	] NOTICE OF HEARING and NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Deceased.	] Date: October 7, 2014] Time: 1:30 p.m.] Judge: Hon. David A. Wiseman

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENTS OR OF THEIR ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Jian Hong Zheng has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. P. 15.

A hearing on the petition and motion will be conducted by the Court on October 7, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 223, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. of Prob. P. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Mark A. Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 4th day of September, 2014.

/S/ MARK A. SCOGGINS (F0347)
Attorney for Petitioner

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

FOR IN-HOUSE PROMOTIONAL ONLY JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2014 CLOSING DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 TIME: 4:30 PM

PL 35/05 – $35,012.570 to PL 35/08 – $40,531.430
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

"ASSET MANAGEMENT DIVISION (AMD) PROPERTY MANAGER"

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

Saipan Tribune, Inc.
is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Photojournalist

Associate degree in photography, or related field; with at least 5 years work experience; with background in newspaper work; must also be able to write stories.; ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; must be competent in Adobe Photoshop.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, September 24, 2014.

Saipan Tribune, Inc.
is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Off The Wall

Illinois volunteers grill 100-foot-long bratwurst

BELLEVILLE, Ill. (AP)—About 50 people volunteered to carefully grill a 100-foot bratwurst without burning or breaking it at a bar in Illinois.

Silver Creek Saloon hosted the practice run Tuesday to prepare for the city's 200th anniversary celebration, where the volunteers will attempt to grill a 200-foot-long bratwurst, the Belleville News-Democrat (http://bit.ly/1tKsmPz) reported. The Bicentennial Oktoberfest Weekend Celebration is set to be held Sept. 19-21 in downtown Belleville.

On Tuesday, Larry Schubert, who made the 60-pound sausage, led the effort to unroll it onto a specially made 100-foot metal trough. Volunteers exercised more caution after practicing in August with a 50-foot bratwurst that broke in several places because it was turned too quickly and the grill was too hot. Organizers walked around to inspect and fix splits in the meat.

A nearby baking company will make a 200-foot-long bun to go with the bratwurst when it's grilled at the community event on Sept. 21. Donations will be collected from people who want to eat a piece of the bratwurst. Proceeds will benefit local food pantries.

AP

In this Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014 photo, Mabel and Larry Schubert help lay out a 100 foot-long bratwurst on a grill at the Silver Creek Saloon in Belleville, Ill.

NOTICE OF MEETING
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS' REGULAR MEETING

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014
Time: 9:00a.m
Place: BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

I. Call Meeting to Order (9:00a.m – 9:40a.m)
- a. Roll Call
- b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
  1. May 23, 2014 – Regular Meeting
  2. July 24, 2014 – Regular Meeting

II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may orally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. **(9:40a.m – 9:50a.m)**

III. Reports and Action from Standing Committees (9:50a.m – 10:50a.m)
- a. Fiscal Committee Report
- b. Program Committee Report
- c. Personnel Committee Report

IV. Old Business (10:50a.m – 11:15a.m)
- a. Board Policies for Consideration (Third Reading)
  1. Board Policy No. 6000 – Compensation **(Action Item)**
  2. Board Policy No. 2005 – Organization of the College **(Action Item)**
- b. Board Policies for Consideration (Second Reading)
  1. Board Policy No. 4008 - Student Grievance Process for Instruction & Grade Related Matters **(Action Item)**
  2. Board Policy No. 7001 – Audit
  3. Board Policy No. 7003 – Financial Accounts **(Action Item)**
  4. Board Policy No. 7004 – Reimbursement of Expenses **(Action Item)**
  5. Board Policy No. 7011 – Accounting **(Action Item)**
  6. Board Policy No. 7012 – Tuition and Fees **(Action Item)**
  7. Board Policy No. 7015 - Tuition Waivers **(Action Item)**

V. New Business (11:15a.m – 12:40p.m)
- a. Board Policies for Consideration (First Reading)
  1. Board Policy No. 3002 – Graduation Requirements **(Action Item)**
  2. Board Policy No. 3004 – Scholar-in-Residence **(Action Item)**
  3. Board Policy No. 5011 – Faculty Rank **(Action Item)**
- b. NMC's Annual Operational Plan **(Action Item)**
- c. Tuition & Fee Increases **(Action Item)**
- d. FY2015 Fiscal Action Plan & Pending Other FY2015 Budgets CW, WASC **(Action Item)**
- e. Compensation Schedule for FY2015 **(Action Item)**

VI. NMC Executive Reports (12:40p.m – 2:00p.m)
- a. **President's Report**
  1. WASC Accreditation Update
  2. WASC Senior – Review Policy on Independent Governing Boards
  3. Chief Financial Officer Report
  4. Legislative Updates

VII. Board Meeting Assessment (2:00p.m – 2:10p.m)

VIII. Executive Session (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- a. President's Annual Accomplishments Report and Evaluation **(Action Item)**

IX. Upcoming Board Activities (2:10p.m – 3:30p.m)
- a. Schedule Next Regular Meeting

X. Adjournment (4:30p.m)

/s/Frank M. Rabauliman
BOR Chairperson

Date: September 11, 2014

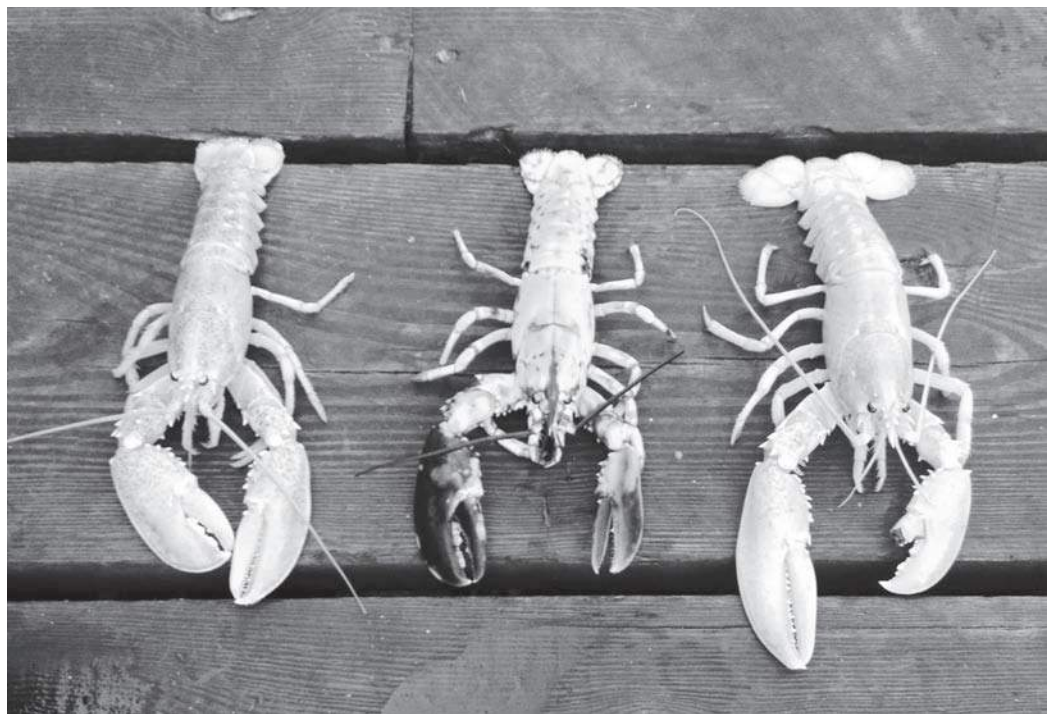
Maine lobstermen catch 2 albino lobsters in week

OWLS HEAD, Maine (AP)—It's no white lie: Two lobstermen in Maine caught a pair of rare albino lobsters within a week.

The Portland Press Herald reports that Bret Philbrick caught the curious crustacean off of Owls Head on Thursday and Joe Bates caught one off the Rockland breakwater days earlier. Albino lobsters are believed to be about one in 100 million.

The lobsters are in a crate at Owls Head Lobster Co. One will go to the Maine State Aquarium in Boothbay Harbor and the other to Brooks Trap Mill in Thomaston. The lobsters are under legal size and would normally have to be returned to the ocean but the Marine Patrol made an exception.

Bates also caught a one-in-30 million yellow lobster on Monday.



AP

In this photo provided by Owls Head Lobster Company, two rare albino lobsters flank a rare yellow lobster on a deck in Owls Head, Maine, Friday, Sept. 5, 2014.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Girl finds ancient spear point on NJ beach

LONG BRANCH, N.J. (AP)—A girl has found what appears to be an ancient spear point on a New Jersey beach. Eleven-year-old Victoria Doroshenko's discovery in Long Branch over the Labor Day weekend came weeks after a Virginia boy found a projectile point from the Paleoindian period in Beach Haven. The Fair Lawn resident tells the Asbury Park Press she was just looking for shells when she found the dark-colored stone. Greg Lattanzi with the New Jersey State Museum says he believes the girl's object was made in the Adena culture between 1,000 B.C. and 100 B.C. Complicating the identification process is the spear point appears to be unfinished. The boy's projectile point was from the early-to-mid-Paleoindian period, which dates as far back as 13,500 B.C.

Judge orders attorney to wear socks in courtroom

HARTFORD CITY, Ind. (AP)—An attorney who habitually appears in court without socks faces sanctions including possible fines if he shows up without them again in one Indiana courtroom. Blackford Circuit Judge Dean Young issued an Aug. 25 order directing attorney Todd Glickfield of Marion to wear appropriate business attire, including socks and a tie, in future proceedings in Young's Hartford City courtroom. Glickfield appeared without socks in Young's court on Aug. 22. The order says that during a break in proceedings, the court advised Glickfield that he wasn't appropriately dressed as required by court rules. The order says Glickfield replied, "I hate socks." The order also states Glickfield previously appeared in court without a tie and with an open-collared shirt.

Sleepwalking camper injured in cliff fall in Ky.

SLADE, Ky. (AP)—Rescue crews say an Ohio man who was camping with friends in central Kentucky's Red River Gorge is recovering after falling from a cliff while sleepwalking. Powell County Emergency Management told WKYT-TV that the group had set up camp near Grey's Arch Trail and the man's friends called for help after realizing that he was missing in the middle of the night. Wolfe County rope technician John May told the station the Cincinnati man, whose name wasn't released, fell about 60 feet early Thursday and landed in an area with several large boulders. He called it a "miracle" that the man survived. May said the camper suffered a head injury, a dislocated shoulder and a fractured leg, but he's expected to make a full recovery.

Science & Technology

Meet Apple's new iPhone

By PARESH DAVE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Arriving Sept. 19, the new iPhone brings Apple in line with smartphones from Samsung, HTC and others while making a name for itself with powerful photo and video features.

The iPhone 6 comes in two larger, faster and thinner varieties than previous iPhones, allowing for sleeker horizontal display of apps and better gameplay, Apple announced Tuesday.

Prices start at $199, following Apple's typical pricing schedule. Buyers have the option for colors in gold, silver and "space gray."

Apple had been expected for months to increase the size of the iPhone as the demand for smartphones with screens 4.5 inches or larger has doubled during the last year to encompass nearly a third of the smartphone market, with buyers choosing options from the likes of Samsung, LG and HTC.

The smaller model has a 4.7-inch screen, a jump from the 4-inch screen on its predecessor, the iPhone 5S. It packs 38 percent more pixels onto the high-definition screen than the iPhone 5S, and comes in at 6.9 millimeters (about 0.25 inches) thick, about 0.7 mm less than the 5S.

A second model, with a 5.5-inch screen and 7.1-mm thickness (also about 0.25 inches), is called the iPhone 6 Plus. With its large size comes 185 percent more pixels than the iPhone 5S and a much more powerful battery. It can hold its charge for 14 hours of high-definition video playback, compared to 10 on the iPhone 5S and 12 on the smaller iPhone 6.

While the cameras aren't receiving significant megapixel boosts, both versions feature new camera sensors that produce faster, continuous autofocus and improved video stabilization. Another tool, similar to what some Android smartphones have, lets users shoot a burst of photos and then choose to save the one with the best smile.

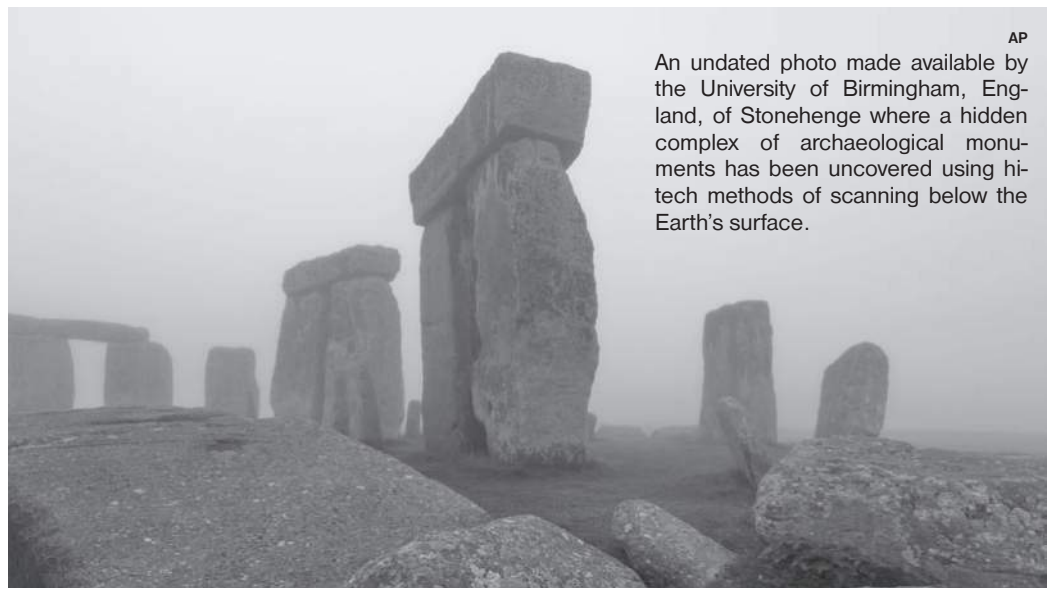
KARL MONDON/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/MCT
Apple CEO Tim Cook introduces the iPhone 6 and the Apple smartwatch at the Flint Center on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, in Cupertino, Calif.

In another Android-borrowed feature, the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus will be able to make phone calls over Wi-Fi. And they now support WiFi 802.11 ac, which means that when the iPhone 6 is connected to newer routers that support the technology, Internet speeds can be up to three times faster, Apple said.

Because of a barometer, the iPhone 6 can also track how many stairs people climb.

iPhone 6 prices on a two-year cellular service contract are $199 for 16 gigabytes, $299 for 64 gigabytes, $399 for 128 gigabytes. Prices for the iPhone 6 Plus: $299 for 16 gigabytes, $399 for 64 gigabytes and $499 for 128 gigabytes. iPhone 5S prices were dropped to $99 for the cheapest model while the iPhone 5C is now free with a two-year contract. Pre-orders begin Friday.

High-tech survey exposes hidden Stonehenge



AP
An undated photo made available by the University of Birmingham, England, of Stonehenge where a hidden complex of archaeological monuments has been uncovered using hi-tech methods of scanning below the Earth's surface.

LONDON (AP)—There is more to Stonehenge than meets a visitor's eye.

Researchers have produced digital maps of what's beneath the World Heritage Site, using ground-penetrating radar, high-resolution magnetometers and other techniques to peer deep into the soil beneath the famous stone circle.

The project produced detailed maps of 17 previously unknown ritual monuments and a huge timber building, which is thought to have been used for burial ceremonies, Birmingham University said Wednesday.

"New monuments have been revealed, as well as new types of monument that have previously never been seen by archaeologists," said Professor Vincent Gaffney, the project leader.

The project also discovered big prehistoric pits, some of which appear to be aligned with the sun, and new information on Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlements and fields, the university said.

Professor Wolfgang Neubauer of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology in Vienna says the new maps makes it possible "for the first time, to reconstruct the development of Stonehenge and its landscape through time."

Archaeologists and others have been digging and theorizing at Stonehenge since the 1620s. The monument, 85 miles (140 kilometers) southwest of London, attracts more than 1.2 million visitors a year -including, last week, President Barack Obama.

The universities of Nottingham, Bradford and St. Andrews in the U.K., and the University of Ghent in Belgium were also involved in the project.

TECH Q & A

How to mass delete files, photos on mobile devices

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: We have Samsung phones and an iPad. Why do these devices not have a way to "select all" for deleting old emails, pictures and phone logs?

A: You can mass-delete data from the email, photo and phone log categories of your mobile devices. But it isn't as simple as it should be.

The latest iPad and iPhone software allows you to delete multiple emails this way: Click "edit" and check the box in front of each email you want to delete, then click "trash" at the bottom of the screen. (To empty the Trash folder, click two successive "delete all" commands.)

For photos on Apple devices, click "select," then touch the pictures you want to delete. Once the photos are chosen, touch the trash can icon at the bottom of the screen, then click "delete photos" (the number of photos being deleted appears between the two words.) To get rid of phone logs, click "edit," then "clear," then "clear all recents."

Samsung offers websites with directions for deleting all emails, photos and call logs from its phones, but the instructions vary from one model to another. To find the directions for your phone, search for the phrase: "delete all email, call log and photo (here insert your model number) Samsung phone."

A one-step "delete all" button for mobile devices would certainly make our lives easier.

Q: Can you suggest a free way to get rid of Astromenda.com? It took over my Web browser, which I was able to fix, but parts of it remain on my computer and I can't get rid of them.

A: Astromenda.com is a type of malicious program called a "browser hijacker." It puts its own advertisements in your online search results, and may record the things you search for. For the several steps necessary to get rid of it, and a list of trustworthy downloadable security programs to use, see tinyurl.com/nr76p3f.

Q: I have trouble moving audio books from CDs to my MP3 player using Windows Media Player. I get a message that "one or more tracks could not be read." Can you offer any advice? Also, I have a book on CD that's in MP3 format. How can I move it to my MP3 player?

A: To convert audio books to MP3 files, try the "Free Audio Converter 2014." It's available through CNet's download service (tinyurl.com/pc5e4om). Open the newly converted MP3 files in Windows Media Player and transfer them to your MP3 player.

For the MP3 audio disk, use Windows Explorer to copy the files from the CD, then paste them into Windows Media Player. From there, transfer them to your MP3 player.

In Celebration of His New Life

Anthony Taman Seman

"Big Tony"

SEPTEMBER 14, 1957 - SEPTEMBER 08, 2014

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Parents: Juan McGinnis Seman & Esperanza Taman Seman
Brother: Vicente Taman Seman
Sisters: Maria Taman Seman
Margarita Taman Seman
Juanita "Lulu" Taman Seman

He will be greatly missed by his:
Children: Gordon O. Seman (Tsukasa S. Seman, Ako S. Seman)/Amber N. Kapileo
Elvira O. Seman/ Jimmy G. Sablan, Temikah T. Sablan, Katriana S. Mendiola
Brother & Sisters: Visitacion Teregeyo
Bernadita S. & Vicente Villagomez
Joseph "Pokey" T. & Susan Seman
Hope S. & Jeffrey Hempstead

He is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, other relatives, and friends.

Daily mass is being held at 6 a.m. and nightly rosaries at 7 p.m. at the San Jose Church. On Tuesday, September 16, 2014, last respects and viewing will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the CHCC Chapel and Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. at the San Jose Church. Interment will follow at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Ghilisou,

The Family

Life & Style

Anna Kendrick sings again in 'The Last 5 Years'

TORONTO (AP)—Anna Kendrick is done with musicals. No really. She swears.

"After the last couple of years, I'm so done singing," says Kendrick. "It's so stressful and so much work. It's like being an athlete. It's something you have to maintain and think about."

But the problem is that Kendrick keeps getting offered parts in musicals she can't turn down. At the Toronto Film Festival, she premiered "The Last 5 Years," an independent musical based on Jason Robert Brown's cultishly adored off-Broadway musical about a young couple's out of sync romantic life.

It's almost wall-to-wall singing, alternating parts between Kendrick's aspiring actress and Jeremy Jordan's rising novelist. Directed by Richard LaGravenese ("P.S. I Love You"), "The Last Five Years" was received rapturously at its premiere Sunday night by an audience full of devoted fans to the musical. The Weinstein Co.' boutique label Radius acquired the film ahead of Toronto, with plans to release it on Valentine's Day next year.

For Kendrick, it's one of three upcoming musicals. She plays Cinderella in the anticipated Disney treatment of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods" (due out Christmas) and she recently finished shooting the sequel to her breakout, "Pitch Perfect 2." (Kendrick's rendition of "Cups" from the first film was one of last year's biggest pop hits, selling nearly 3 million tracks.)

Just when she thought she was out, they pull her back in.

"What kind of idiot is like, `Ooo, it is like a dream role, but I didn't want to do any more musicals, so ....'?" Kendrick said in an interview the morning after "The Last 5 Years" screening. "I mostly feel really grateful that I keep getting sucked back in, even though it wasn't part of the plan or anything. The opportunities have just been mind-boggling."

Kendrick

Kendrick started out in musicals, debuting on Broadway at age 12 in "High Society" and earning a Tony nomination for her performance, and continuing on in other productions. But while her love for musicals runs deep (Brown's "Parade" is her favorite, she says), Kendrick has typically resisted full musical-theater geekdom.

"After being on Broadway at 12, it was like everybody who had musical theater interest at my middle school or high school was like, `Oh yeah? Well, do you have the original, original London recording of the workshop of the musical?'" says Kendrick. "I was like, `Oh, this is a competition all the time? I'm not doing this.'"

Unlike most movie musicals, "The Last 5 Years" is distinctly independent, shot quickly and simply in New York and imbued with an underdog, off-Broadway spirit.

"This is obviously a very intimate story, so it made sense to make it feel intimate," says Kendrick. "And also we had no money."

Faithfully adapted, "The Last 5 Years" was made to sing to its choir. In one scene after an unsuccessful audition, Kendrick vents about the show's rejecting producers, disparaging them as "the people that cast Russell Crowe in a musical." The line—which Kendrick ad-libbed after discussion with Brown—substituted the "Les Miserables" star for Linda Blair.

"I had been thinking Russell Crowe because I thought Linda Blair was maybe too esoteric," says Kendrick. "The syllables are correct. I didn't say anything because I was like, `I'm going to get in trouble.'"

Chastain & McAvoy talk about 'Eleanor Rigby' film

NEW YORK (AP)—James McAvoy says that when he showed up to work on "The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby," he didn't realize the film would be broken up into two perspectives—a husband and a wife's version of how tragedy affects the trajectory of a relationship.

"We started rehearsing and I've got my hard copy of the script," said McAvoy, seated with Jessica Chastain during a recent interview. "My hard copy was incredibly thick, so I thought, 'That's strange. They must be using both sides of the paper.' Then we started and I thought, 'This thing's massive.' ... And then we started the read-through and I realized ..."

"Perhaps your agent should've told you!" laughed Chastain.

"Nobody really told me. ... I don't think she knew," argued McAvoy.

"She knew! She's at the same agency as (director) Ned (Benson)!" cried Chastain, still laughing.

So, there are various perspectives to a story—and that's the point of "Eleanor Rigby."

There's "Her," about Chastain's character, Eleanor Rigby, named after the Beatles song; "Him," about her husband, Conor; and "Them," a combination of both. "Them" arrives in theaters Friday; "Him" and "Her" will play in limited release beginning in October.

Chastain was nominated for an Oscar for her role in "Zero Dark Thirty." McAvoy's films include "Atonement" and "The Last King of Scotland."

Here are more excerpts from their recent conversation with The Associated Press. The answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: You've been promoting this project for a year. What's it like to have it finally released?

Chastain: I first read the script seven years ago. So it's been a part of my life for a really long time. To me, it just feels normal. I don't know what I'm gonna do when we stop talking about this movie.

AP

James McAvoy and Jessica Chastain attend a screening of The Weinstein Company's "The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby" hosted by Prada and The Cinema Society on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014 in New York.

McAvoy: I said last night, 'Did we just make this movie so we can hang out every now and again, like four times a year and hang out in exotic places?'

AP: The premise for all three films is very unique, but it's not very mainstream. Do you worry people won't be interested in the "Him" and "Her" versions?

Chastain: I think in this culture where people are binge-watching on 'Game of Thrones,' where they're watching 12-hour movies, a three-hour film isn't so long, but they have the option. They can watch 'Them,' which is two hours, or they can watch 'Him' and 'Her,' which is three hours.

McAvoy: If you're watching 'Him' and 'Her,' you're taking part in something.

Chastain: Exactly. Even the order you decide to watch them in (changes the experience). Sometimes if you watch Conor's version first, people kind of hate Eleanor. ... Even filming, it's kind of like playing two different versions of a character.

Vanessa Hudgens coming to Broadway as 'Gigi'

NEW YORK (AP)—It's taken a few years, but Vanessa Hudgens has finally made the leap from "High School Musical" to a Broadway musical.

The actress-singer will star in a Broadway-bound revival of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Lowe's musical "Gigi" that first debuts in Washington, D.C. early next year. She's already jumped into twice-a-day vocal exercises and memorizing her lines.

Hudgens

"I think, as an actor, the ultimate dream is to be on Broadway. I think it's the true test. There are no second takes. You've got to bring everything you've got for the most critical of audiences," she said by phone Wednesday. "It's an honor, if anything. I'm over the moon."

"Gigi," set in Paris at the turn of the last century, comes from the same composer and lyricist as "My Fair Lady." It centers on a teenage girl being groomed to serve as a companion to a bored, wealthy playboy until the pair realize they have fallen in love.

Hudgens was familiar with the show and some of the music. "My mom's name is Gina, her nickname's been Gigi. We have a dog named Gigi. Gigi is very prevalent in our lives," she says, laughing.

The original novel by Colette began as a play starring Audrey Hepburn in 1951 and then became a movie musical starring Leslie Caron. A stage musical was made in 1973 starring Karin Wolfe but lasted only about 100 performances.

"Gigi" features the memorable tunes "Thank Heaven For Little Girls," "I Remember It Well" and "The Night They Invented Champagne," which Hudgens called "an absolutely electric musical number." The score also includes a few songs added to the score in 1973, including "Paris is Paris Again" and "I Never Want to Go Home Again."

Hudgens, 25, who made her feature film debut in Catherine Hardwicke's "Thirteen," is best known for playing Gabriella, the love interest of Zac Efron's Troy, in Disney's "High School Musical" movies. Recent screen credits include "Bandslam" and "Spring Breakers." Hudgens has put out two albums, including 2008's "Identified."

She grew up doing musical theater and says that's "what brought me out of my shell. So being onstage is something I feel very comforting." She starred as Mimi in "Rent" at the Hollywood Bowl in 2010.

Playwright Heidi Thomas, who wrote the PBS/BBC hit "Call the Midwife," is reimagining the new production of "Gigi." Her TV credits include a "Madame Bovary" that starred Frances O'Connor and a revival of the classic British TV series "Upstairs, Downstairs" from 2010 to 2012. Her plays include "Shamrocks and Crocodiles," "Some Singing Blood" and "The House of Special Purpose."

The new musical will be seen at the Kennedy Center from Jan. 16-Feb. 12 and then move to Broadway. The exact dates in New York and rest of the cast will be announced at a later date.

The director will be Eric Schaeffer who staged the recent revival of "Follies" and "Million Dollar Quartet." Choreography will be done by Joshua Bergasse, who is choreographing the "On the Town" revival this season.

One skill that Hudgens still has to master for the show is to Rollerblade. That's necessary because her Gigi will be seen ice skating. "I have to get on that, stat." The actress' enthusiasm for her new adventure is clear.

"I've never been so ecstatic about a project before," she said. "I genuinely feel like a child, beaming from ear-to-ear, being taken to Disneyland for the first time. It's something that I actually feel I was born to do."

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THE MAZE RUNNER [CC,DV] (NR)
Thu.1000 PM

DOLPHIN TALE 2 [CC,DV] (PG)
Fri.(415 PM) 700 PM 950 PM
Sat.(130 415) 700 950
Sun.(130 PM 415 PM) 700 PM
Mon. - Thu.(415 PM) 700 PM

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW [CC,DV] (R)
Fri.(500 PM) 725 PM 955 PM
Sat.(230 500) 725 955
Sun.(230 PM 500 PM) 725 PM
Mon. - Thu.(500 PM) 725 PM

IF I STAY [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.(430 PM) 720 PM 1015 PM
Sat.(145 430) 720 1015
Sun.(145 PM 430 PM) 720 PM
Mon. - Thu.(430 PM) 720 PM

THE EXPENDABLES 3 [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.705 PM
Sat. - Sun.(115 PM) 705 PM
Mon. - Thu.705 PM

LET'S BE COPS [CC,DV] (R)
Fri. - Sat.(420 PM) 1020 PM
Sun. - Thu.(420 PM)

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.730 PM 1005 PM
Sat.(205 PM) 730 PM 1005 PM
Sun.(205 PM) 730 PM
Mon. - Thu.730 PM

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri. - Thu.(450 PM)

HUNDRED FOOT JOURNEY [CC,DV] (PG)
Fri.(425 PM) 710 PM 1010 PM
Sat.(135 425) 710 1010
Sun.(135 PM 425 PM) 710 PM
Mon. - Thu.(425 PM) 710 PM

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY [CC,DV] (PG-13)
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Sat.(100 400) 700 1000
Sun.(100 PM 400 PM) 700 PM
Mon. - Thu.(400 PM) 700 PM

Times For 09/12 - 09/18 www.REGmovies.com

Shia LaBeouf pleads guilty to disorderly conduct

NEW YORK (AP)—Shia LaBeouf admitted Wednesday to acting up at a Broadway show, pleading guilty to disorderly conduct in one of several episodes of bizarre behavior the former "Transformers" star has displayed in recent years.

LaBeouf, whose representatives have said has gotten treatment for an alcohol problem since his June arrest, somberly answered a judge's questions as he pleaded guilty in a deal that involves no jail time or probation. If he stays in treatment for at least three months and out of trouble for six, he will be allowed to withdraw the guilty plea and the case will be dismissed.

"Are you pleading guilty because you are guilty?" Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Diana Boyar asked, a standard question in such pleas.

"Yes, your honor," LaBeouf said.

He declined to comment as he left court encircled by news cameras.

"We appreciate the thoughtfulness of the resolution of the matter by the (Manhattan) district attorney's office," said his lawyer, G. Robert Gage.

LaBeouf, 28, was watching Alan Cumming and Michelle Williams in a "Cabaret" revival on June 24 when he started smoking cigarettes, yelling at the actors onstage, and swearing at security guards and hollering as he was escorted out: "Do you know who I am?" according to court papers. Taken to a police precinct, he spat at an officer's feet, according to the documents.

He faced charges including a misdemeanor trespassing offense and some non-criminal violations, disorderly conduct among them.

Assistant District Attorney Alyssa Russell told the judge that prosecutors had made the plea agreement "based on the fact that the defendant has been in continuous treatment since his arrest."

He's been treated at the Hills Treatment Center in Los Angeles, Gage said, declining to detail the treatment. The Hills wouldn't comment.

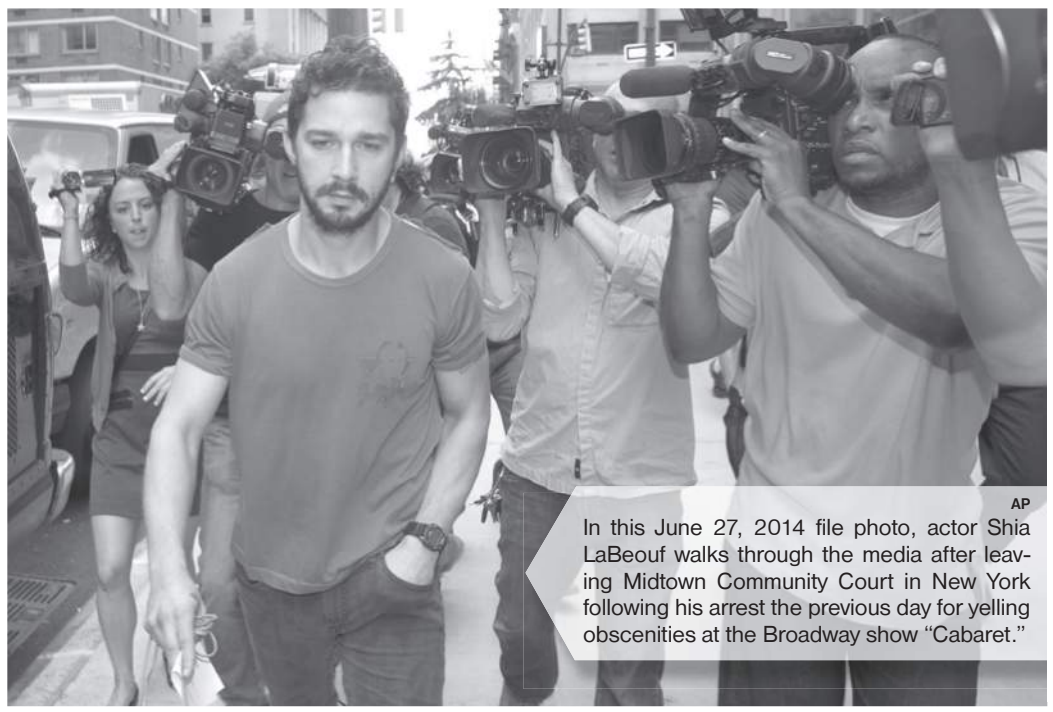
LaBeouf's publicist said in July he was voluntarily being treated for alcoholism but hadn't checked into a rehab facility. She didn't immediately respond to an inquiry Wednesday.

It's not uncommon in Manhattan for such cases to be resolved with agreements to dismiss them if a defendant stays out of trouble.

Best known for starring in the first three "Transformers" movies, LaBeouf has gotten attention for a number of off-screen incidents in the past year.

He apologized this winter for borrowing the story line and dialogue for a short film from a graphic novel writer. In February, he walked out of a Berlin Film Festival news conference for the movie "Nymphomaniac Volume I" and then wore a paper bag—emblazoned with "I am not famous anymore"—over his head at the red carpet premiere.

The actor was arrested on a drunken driving charge in Los Angeles in 2008 after he crashed his pickup truck, injuring his hand and knee; police said he wasn't at fault for the wreck, as another driver had run a red light. Prosecutors ultimately said there wasn't enough evidence to charge him.



AP

In this June 27, 2014 file photo, actor Shia LaBeouf walks through the media after leaving Midtown Community Court in New York following his arrest the previous day for yelling obscenities at the Broadway show "Cabaret."

Showtime pulling plug on 'Nurse Jackie'

NEW YORK (AP)—"Nurse Jackie" will soon be making her rounds one last time.

Showtime announced Wednesday that the comedy starring Edie Falco will end its run after an upcoming seventh season. The show wrapped up its sixth season in June and has just begun production on the final season.

Falco won an Emmy for her role as a drug-addicted medical professional. The series premiered in 2009.

A Showtime representative said air dates for the last season haven't been scheduled, so it's impossible to know when the finale will take place.

David Lynch visits Philly for exhibit on his art

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Acclaimed filmmaker David Lynch has visited Philadelphia for a preview of a museum exhibit featuring his paintings.

Lynch was in the city on Wednesday for a walkthrough of the exhibit. Lynch is best known for making movies, but he's also an artist.

The exhibition is presented by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, which he attended.

The academy says the exhibit will feature more than 80 of Lynch's paintings and drawings. The display features work that spans his career from his years as a student in the 1960s to now.

The exhibit is called "David Lynch: The Unified Field." Visitors can see it between Sept. 13 and Jan. 11, 2015.

Nicki Minaj: Natural look stems from confidence

NEW YORK (AP)—Nicki Minaj, who has recently dropped her colorful and oddball style for a more natural and sophisticated look, says it's because she's more comfortable in her skin.

"I kind of feel now that I look more like my regular old self, like what I look like when I'm at home," she said in an interview Tuesday. "I think there's just a little bit more confidence and so I'm like, `It is what it is. I am who I am. I look like what I look like.' I don't really have to change much of it anymore."

Minaj's new look includes her natural black hair color versus the wild and bright wigs she's worn that helped establish her name in pop culture. At the Fashion Rocks concert Tuesday in Brooklyn, New York, where the rapper performed, she wore a blazer and skirt that came off like a little black dress.

"I just thought it was really, really sexy, but without being tight," she said. "I thought it was different for me."

Onstage, Minaj wore less when performing her rump-shaking hit "Anaconda," which has peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Her other single, "Bang Bang," with Ariana Grande and Jessie J, is another massive hit, giving the performer two songs in the current Top 5.

The songs appear on her third album, "The Pinkprint," to be released Nov. 24.

"The album is going to be my best body of work," she said. "It's diverse, but it's not trying too hard."

AP

Nicki Minaj attends Fashion Rocks on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014 at the Barclays Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Parents persist in thinking gay son will straighten out

DEAR ABBY: I'm a gay male college student who is out and comfortable with who I am—99 percent of the time. When I was in high school, I tried to come out to my parents and it didn't go smoothly. They had an emotional crisis for a day, then shrugged it off as "just another teenage phase." After the panic mode was over, they bought me off with an expensive car and continued believing I'm straight.

I make no attempt to hide who I am because I expect to be treated the same, regardless. But it's awkward whenever I am asked by either parent, "Do you have a girlfriend?" or, "How are you doing with the ladies?"

Do you have any advice on what I should say in response, given my parents' emotional reaction?

IT'S WHO I AM IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WHO I AM: It is obvious that your parents are in denial. If you haven't told them again about your sexual orientation, you should.

If you are unable to summon up the words to tell them what they are waiting for isn't going to happen, then contact PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays -- pflag.org), not only for your own sake, but also for theirs. In light of your parents' reaction the last time you leveled with them, they may need emotional support to accept that you are gay, and PFLAG can provide it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for a year. We dated for four years before the wedding, and we have a son together. The child and I have never met any of my husband's immediate family. I have never spoken to any of them over the phone, either.

He has met all of my family members. I have asked repeatedly to meet his, and he tells me he's planning a family trip to visit. He seemed annoyed when I brought it up. What should I do?

LEFT OUT IN FLORIDA

DEAR LEFT OUT: That you have had no contact with these people in the five years you've been in the picture is, frankly, beyond strange. It appears there may be some things your husband hasn't told you. He may be ashamed of his family, on the outs with them, or they were never told about his involvement with you and/or the existence of their grandchild.

Because you have now been a member of their family for a year, pick up the phone, call your in-laws and introduce yourself.

DEAR ABBY: Please help to settle a debate between my husband and me. Is it all right for a woman to give relationship advice to her friend?

I have a friend who is struggling in her relationship, and I have tried to help with advice I feel is appropriate and positive. Is this wrong, or should I stay out of it like my husband suggests?

GOOD FRIEND IN TEXAS

DEAR GOOD FRIEND: Part of female friendship is sharing experiences and advice with each other. However, remember that if your friend is "struggling" in this relationship, in the final analysis, she's going to have to resolve the problems herself. If she is unable to do that without coming back to you again and again, then her relationship probably won't last in spite of your best efforts.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

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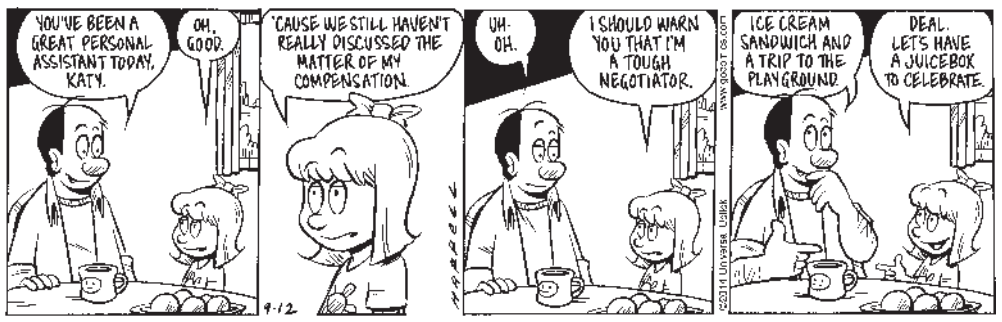
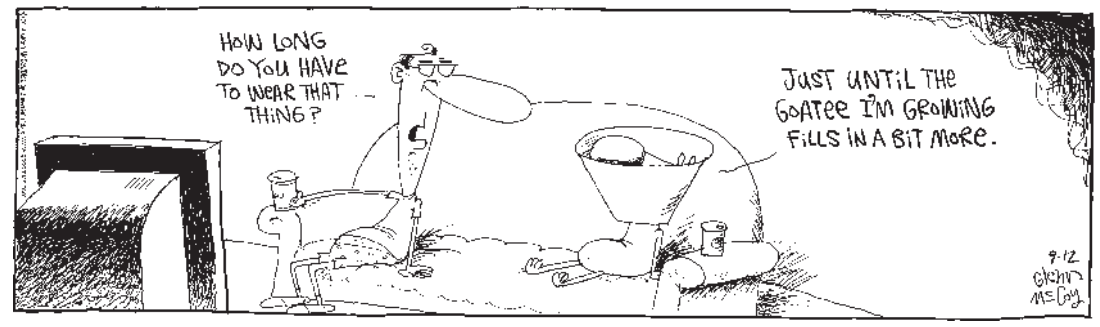

YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT PERSONAL ASSISTANT TODAY, KATY.
OH, GOOD.
'CAUSE WE STILL HAVEN'T REALLY DISCUSSED THE MATTER OF MY COMPENSATION.
UH-OH.
I SHOULD WARN YOU THAT I'M A TOUGH NEGOTIATOR.
ICE CREAM SANDWICH AND A TRIP TO THE PLAYGROUND.
DEAL. LET'S HAVE A JUICEBOX TO CELEBRATE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Selfie, e.g.
4 Grit
8 Arrived
12 Big bother
13 Entreaty
14 Friend of Dorothy
15 Small hatchet
17 Heidi's home
18 Czech or Polish
19 Kimono closer
21 Squid squirt
22 Hoyden
26 Take it easy
29 Levy
30 — out a living
31 Object of worship
32 Urban transport
33 Gilbert of "The Talk"
34 Discoverer's cry
35 Curse
36 Oil of roses
37 Ketchup base
39 "CSI" evidence
40 Petrol
41 Exit
45 Persia, now
48 Annie's song
50 Olympic sled
51 Satanic
52 Masseur's workplace
53 Recognized
54 — -tat-tat
55 Biblical possessive

DOWN
1 Butter servings
2 Pedestal occupant
3 Prolonged sleep
4 Egyptian landmark
5 "Oh, woe!"
6 Just out
7 Stately duo?
8 Assertion
9 Have a bug
10 Broom closet item
11 Dash lengths
16 Birdlike
20 Carton
23 Tempo
24 Creole veggie
25 Once around the sun
26 Laugh-a-minute
27 Canyon phenomenon
28 Weaver's need
29 Formal outfit
32 Supplementary vaccine
33 "Yellow Submarine" singer
35 Sch. org.
36 Luanda's land
38 Veep before Ford
39 Resign
42 Formerly, formerly
43 Former frosh
44 Vacillate
45 Sort
46 Scoot
47 Mellow
49 Eggs

Solution time: 25 mins.

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M	A	C	Y	S			A	I	S	L	E	S
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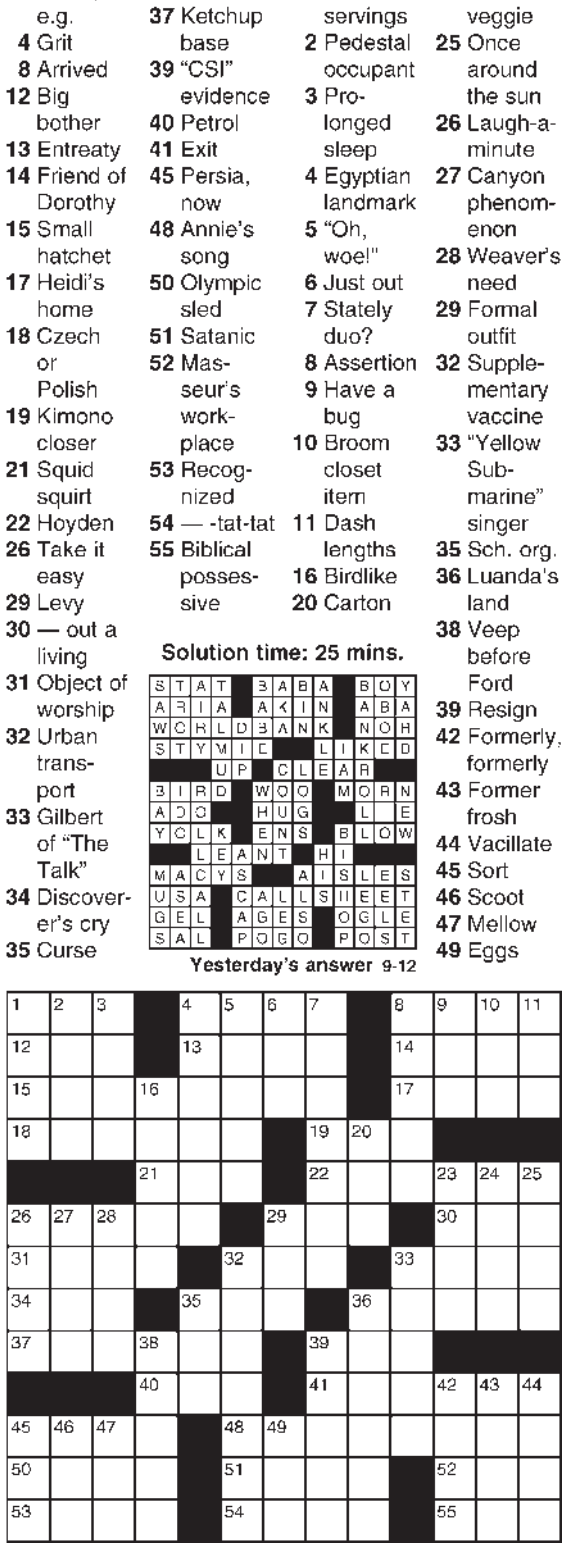
G	E	L		A	G	E	S		O	G	L	E
S	A	L		P	O	G	O		P	O	S	T

Yesterday's answer 9-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emmy Rossum, 28; Jennifer Hudson, 33; Benjamin McKenzie, 36; Louis C.K., 47.

Happy Birthday: Change beckons you. Accept what comes down the pipeline. Improvising will lead to success and bring you in contact with interesting people with something to contribute. Having an open heart and mind will provide you with answers and solutions as you strive to reach your goals. Trust in your intuition and you won't be disappointed. Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 29, 31, 36, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Indulge in conversation and explore new possibilities. Getting to know new people will help you initiate personal alterations that are bound to teach you something useful. Don't believe everything you are told regarding health. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look for creative and unique ways to sort through any problems you face. Keep life simple and utilize what you know to help you maneuver into a position that shows promise. Integrity in personal matters will ensure the same in return. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Visitors or changes at home will brighten your day. Don't make a physical change if you haven't done enough research. False advertising is apparent and precautions must be taken. Honest and open talks will help you make the right decision. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Expect to fight for what you want. A controversial conversation will leave you feeling exhausted. Don't revisit a past mistake. Live in the present and focus on the moment, not the past. Love is highlighted and romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Indulge in life, fun and exploring new interests, but don't overdo it. There is a fine balance to maintain if you don't want to suffer loss. Make a point to swiftly take care of any health matters that arise. ✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Step into action when it comes to home and family matters. Listen to your heart and let your emotions speak for you. Don't hide from the truth. Face whatever comes your way with pride and practicality. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Offer what you can to those you care about. Consider partnerships if it will bring about a positive change for both you and the other person. Be ready to make a quick decision in order to take advantage of an awesome opportunity. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take one step at a time. Be careful not to overshare. Stick to moderate plans that you know how to handle emotionally, physically and financially. Unusual changes at home will enhance romance and boost your relationship with someone special. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't take on something you cannot finish. A problem with a peer, sibling or neighbor will stir up trouble that will be difficult to overcome. Stick close to home and do your best to make positive changes that will add to your assets. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Impulse will lead to conversations that are detrimental to finding a workable solution. Take a moment to rehash some of the occurrences of the past and you will find better ways to move forward without friction. Home improvements will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Progress is key and making the necessary changes will get you where you want to go. There are deals to be made and money gains heading your way. Think big and present your ideas with finesse. Don't let bureaucracy hold you back. ✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your focus should be on stabilizing your financial situation. Partnerships may be offered, but unless you feel the relationship offers equal opportunity, you are best to take a pass and go it alone. Love and romance look promising. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, driven and loyal. You are expressive, pioneering and charming.

Eugenia's Web sites: *eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				8	1	2		
		3	7					
	2							5
	8		9		3			4
4								3
9			5		8		2	
6							8	
					2	1		
		9	4	5				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	3	5	6	2	9	8	4
8	9	2	7	4	1	3	5	6
4	6	5	8	3	9	2	7	1
6	2	1	3	5	4	8	9	7
5	3	7	9	8	6	4	1	2
9	8	4	2	1	7	5	6	3
3	4	9	1	7	8	6	2	5
1	5	8	6	2	3	7	4	9
2	7	6	4	9	5	1	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/11

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHOPPING IS GREAT CARDIO Solution: 5 letters

L	Y	S	T	N	R	W	A	L	K	S	B	E	R	N
S	L	W	E	I	E	S	E	C	R	R	U	D	E	O
E	K	O	K	A	M	M	A	I	O	U	G	I	D	I
I	S	D	R	R	I	R	A	A	G	O	G	R	L	H
R	I	N	A	T	T	T	M	N	C	H	Y	T	U	S
E	R	I	M	I	S	I	I	A	B	T	T	S	O	A
C	B	W	R	S	N	N	R	O	E	H	I	S	H	F
O	G	I	S	G	R	R	R	S	G	E	L	V	S	I
R	N	P	H	U	I	H	I	Y	R	R	A	C	E	T
G	I	A	B	A	O	C	E	L	T	A	E	W	S	N
H	H	C	G	O	R	N	E	K	S	P	R	E	E	E
A	T	E	D	E	O	N	I	C	T	Y	B	A	G	S
P	O	S	X	M	O	V	E	I	E	D	N	E	P	S
P	L	E	R	T	F	I	G	U	P	S	L	A	E	D
Y	C	S	E	T	S	E	U	Q	S	H	O	E	S	T

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Yesterday's Answer: Glass Jars

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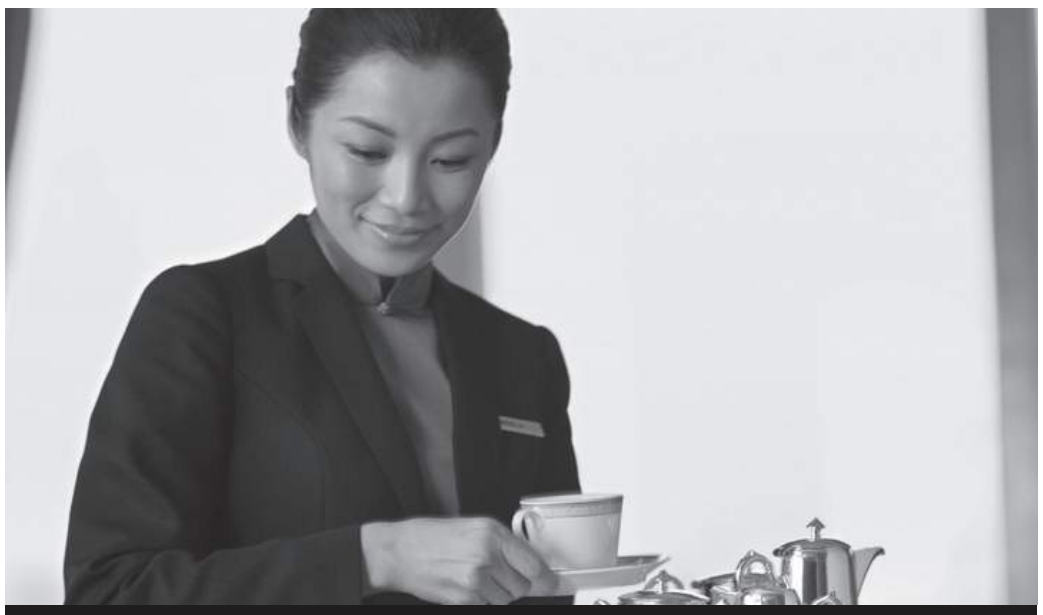

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NFL to look into its handling of Rice case

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL called in a former FBI director to examine how it pursued and handled evidence in the Ray Rice domestic violence case as pressure increased for the league to be more transparent about its original investigation.

The move late Wednesday came hours after The Associated Press reported that a law enforcement officer said he sent an NFL executive a video in April that showed Rice striking his then-fiancee at a casino. Goodell has maintained that no one in the NFL saw the video until it was released by TMZ Sports Monday.

Women's organizations, members of Congress and players have called for more detail about the NFL's handling of the Rice case. The criticism intensified after the law enforcement official's account.

Goodell turned to Robert S. Mueller III, who was the director of the FBI for a 12-year term, to lead the inquiry. The probe will be overseen by owners John Mara of the New York Giants and Art Rooney of the Pittsburgh Steelers, two of Goodell's strongest supporters. Both are members of key NFL committees and have closely advised Goodell throughout his tenure.

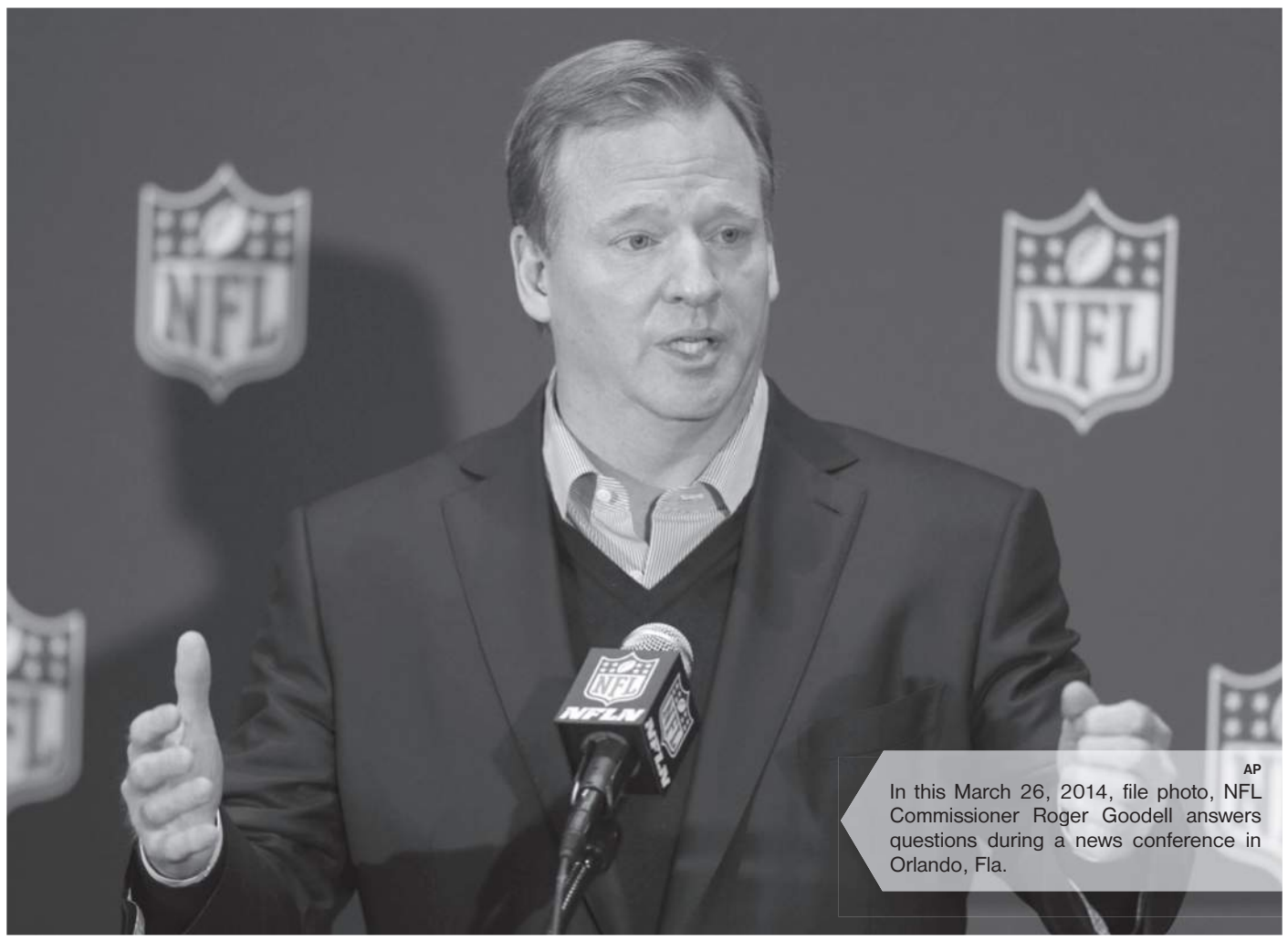
The NFL called the probe independent, and did not discuss how the owners will work with Mueller. But there could be an appearance of conflict: Mara has already indicated he doesn't think Goodell's job should be in jeopardy.

"My understanding is that the league and the Ravens made repeated requests to obtain the video of the Ray Rice incident and were denied each time," Mara said a few hours before the AP story broke. "The notion that the league should have gone around law enforcement to obtain the video is, in my opinion, misguided, as is the notion that the commissioner's job is now in jeopardy."

The law firm where Mueller is now a partner, WilmerHale, is familiar with the NFL. The firm has represented Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder, and several former members of the firm have taken positions with NFL teams.

The law enforcement official who described sending the video to the NFL spoke on condition of anonymity because an investigation is ongoing. He said he sent the tape five months ago, and played a 12-second voicemail from an NFL office number on April 9 confirming the video arrived. A female voice expresses thanks and says: "You're right. It's terrible."

The official says he had no further communication with any NFL employee and can't confirm anyone watched the video. The person said he was unauthorized to release the video but shared it unsolicited, because he wanted the NFL to have it before deciding on Rice's punishment.



AP
In this March 26, 2014, file photo, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell answers questions during a news conference in Orlando, Fla.

The NFL has said it asked for the video from law enforcement, but was denied.

The video shows Ravens running back Rice and Janay Palmer—now Janay Rice—shouting obscenities at each other, and she appears to spit at Rice right before he throws a brutal punch.

Rice had been charged with felony aggravated assault, but in May he was accepted into a pretrial intervention program that allowed him to avoid jail time. That could lead to the charge being purged from his record. He was cut from the Ravens and suspended by the league indefinitely on Monday after TMZ posted video of the punch.

Questions about the league's handling of the case have come from all over.

Saints quarterback Drew Brees, a former member of the players' union executive committee, questioned the league's accountability. Brees compared it to the Saints' bounty program in which players, coaches and the general manager were suspended and the organization was fined.

"We're all held accountable for our actions as players," he said. "Certainly every owner should be held accountable for their actions, the commissioner should be held accountable for his actions."

The National Organization of Women said Goodell should resign and an independent committee should be appointed to suggest lasting reforms.

Goodell has led the league through several controversies. While league revenues have grown to the $10 billion range, the NFL went through a four-month player lockout in 2011; a lockout of officials in 2012; the Saints' bounties; a bullying scandal on the Dolphins; and the Patriots spying on an opponent.

He's weathered those situations relatively well, in part because the owners certainly like seeing such profits, but also because of his leadership.

Under his watch, the NFL has clamped down on drug use and player misconduct. Goodell has not been afraid to discipline teams and owners, as he did with heavy fines for the Patriots, Saints and, most recently, the Colts for on- or off-field misconduct.

But the Rice case has shaken America's most popular sport, with fans talking more about domestic abuse than games. The Ravens play the rival Steelers in Baltimore Thursday night on national TV, but all the talk will be about the Rice case.

Despite the pressure, Goodell's job is secure, said Marc Ganis, president of Chicago-based consulting firm SportsCorp and a confidant of many NFL owners.

"Roger Goodell is the best leader of any sports league on the planet today," Ganis said. "The NFL that he runs is managed better than any sports league—ever. The people that know this best are those who pay his contract, the owners.

"There is not any chance that they will ask him to step down. Not in this life or the next."

2 more NFL players face domestic violence issues

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Carolina Panthers Pro Bowl defensive end Greg Hardy has been convicted on two counts of domestic violence and is still playing. Ray McDonald of the San Francisco 49ers also remains active while he is being investigated for abuse allegations.

The Panthers and 49ers have not publicly discussed details of their investigations, saying only that they are following the NFL's lead in waiting for the legal process to run its course.

The cases have similarities to that of Ray Rice, who was released this week by the Baltimore Ravens and suspended indefinitely by the league after an explicit video surfaced of him hitting his then-fiancee.

A law enforcement official told The Associated Press on condition anonymity that he sent a copy of the video to the league in April.

Panthers owner Jerry Richardson broke down in tears Wednesday night when talking about domestic violence at an award ceremony in his honor, saying he would be remiss if he didn't "acknowledge an issue weighing heavily on our sport and our society."

"When it comes to domestic violence, my stance is not one of indifference," an emotional Richardson said after receiving the Award Against Indifference for his business and civic contributions in Charlotte from the Echo Foundation, a nonprofit education organization. "I stand firmly against domestic violence, plain and simple.

"To those who would suggest that we've been too slow to act, I ask that you consider not to be too quick to judge. Over the course of our 20 years, we have worked extremely hard to build an organization of integrity."

Richardson left the event without taking questions.

Despite Richardson's plea, the NFL is under scrutiny for its wait-and-see approach in domestic violence cases like Hardy's.

Judy Harris Kluger, a former New York City judge and now executive director of Sanctuary for Families, is anxious to see how the league handles the two pending cases.

"I think the test for the NFL will be what they do with the other people who are charged now," Kluger said. "And I don't imagine there's a videotape of that. What else did the NFL think happened in that elevator? So yes, it's a very graphic depiction, and they took the action they took now. But I think all of us will be looking to see what they and other organizations do going forward."

While McDonald has not been charged, Hardy has been convicted on two counts of domestic violence. He has appealed and a hearing is scheduled for Nov. 17.

Hardy, one of the stalwarts on the Panthers' stout defense, is making $13.1 million this season as team's franchise player. He had four tackles and one sack in Carolina's season-opening victory.

Though he has already been found guilty, the league is sticking by its policy to wait until the appeal process has been heard before making any decision on a possible suspension.

"The Hardy matter is under review," league spokesman Greg Aiello said. "The case has not been resolved by the court."

San Jose police are still actively investigating the Aug. 31 incident involving the 6-foot-3, 290-pound McDonald and detectives will turn over findings to the Santa Clara District Attorney's office for review, Sgt. Heather Randol, a police spokeswoman said Wednesday.

McDonald is scheduled to appear in court on Sept. 15.

Though Hardy has appealed his conviction, the Panthers don't have to wait for the NFL to take action. They have the option to bench Hardy—or release him.

The Ravens did not take action, opting to wait for an NFL ruling, though they now say they let their fans down.

When asked Wednesday if the Panthers made the right decision allowing Hardy to play, coach Ron Rivera replied, "We are going through the process and while we're in the process we're not going to comment about the situation.

"It's a very tragic situation that is going on and we're going from there," Rivera said of the Rice case. "I have a tremendous amount of empathy and respect for the people who are in this situation. It's very difficult."

Rivera said Hardy did not practice because he was given a "personal day" Wednesday.

Hardy used the time to meet with his attorney. Chris Fialko confirmed in an email that he met with his client but wouldn't elaborate on the specifics of the meeting.

Hardy was convicted on July 15 and the victim testified that she was assaulted by him in March at his apartment after a night of drinking. She said Hardy threw her down on sofa full of guns and tossed her into the shower. She also said he threatened to kill her and put his hands around her neck.

The 6-4, 275-pound lineman was sentenced to 18 months' probation and a suspended 60-day jail sentence. Mecklenburg County Judge Rebecca Tin imposed the sentence after 11 hours of testimony, saying "the court is entirely convinced Hardy is guilty of assault on a female and communicating threats."

Shields shuts down Tigers as Royals win 3-0

DETROIT (AP) — James Shields allowed two hits over seven innings in another terrific performance, and the Kansas City Royals edged Detroit 3-0 on Wednesday night to take a one-game lead over the Tigers atop the AL Central.

Shields (14-7) gave up a single to Ian Kinsler leading off the first. Then he picked off Kinsler—and retired every other batter he faced until another Detroit single in the seventh. The Tigers put two on that inning, but Shields worked out of the jam.

Kelvin Herrera pitched the eighth and Wade Davis finished for his third save.

Braves 6, Nationals 2

In Washington, Aaron Harang outdueled Stephen Strasburg, Justin Upton drove in three runs and the Atlanta Braves avoided a series sweep in Washington with a win over the Nationals.

The Braves snapped a three-game losing streak as Harang (11-10) held the NL East leaders to one unearned run over seven innings. Upton's RBI single in the sixth broke a 1-all tie, and he added a two-run double off reliever Ryan Mattheus during a three-run seventh.

Pirates 6, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Andrew McCutchen hit the first inside-the-park home run of his career and the Pittsburgh Pirates protected their lead in the NL wild-card race, beating Philadelphia.

Pittsburgh has won six of seven.

Pittsburgh trailed 3-2 in the fifth inning when McCutchen hit a ball off the wall in straightaway center field. The ball ricocheted toward the alley in right-center, and McCutchen scored standing up. Russell Martin homered into the center-field seats later in the inning.

Yankees 8, Rays 5

In New York, Mark Teixeira made up for a botched foul pop in the Rays' four-run first inning with a go-ahead triple in the fifth, Brian McCann homered and drove in three runs, and the Yankees used their biggest comeback of the season to beat Tampa Bay.

The Yankees entered 5 1/2 games out of a playoff spot with 20 remaining, and they did not get off to a good start.

Reds 4, Cardinals 2

In Cincinnati, Alfredo Simon shook off a rough start but lasted seven innings and drove in the go-ahead run with the second of his two doubles as the Reds rallied for a win over the Cardinals.

Ryan Ludwick hit a solo home run to help the Reds win back-to-back games for the first time since Aug. 27-28 against the Chicago Cubs. The Central Division-leading Cardinals hadn't sustained consecutive defeats since a four-game losing streak from Aug. 26-30.

Mets 2, Rockies 0

In New York, Rafael Montero earned his first major league win, Eric Young Jr. went 3 for 3 with an RBI triple and the suddenly surging Mets beat the Rockies for their fourth consecutive victory.

Montero (1-3) returned from the minors and allowed three hits over 5 1-3 innings in his seventh big league start. Juan Lagares had a sacrifice fly for the Mets, who have won seven of eight.

Blue Jays 11, Cubs 1

In Toronto, Drew Hutchison matched his career-high with 10 strikeouts in 6 1-3 innings, Dioner Navarro had two hits and two RBIs, and the Blue Jays completed a three-game sweep with a win over the Cubs.

Hutchison (10-11) allowed one run and four hits in his second career 10-strikeout game—both this season. He also did it against Milwaukee on July 1.

Orioles 10, Red Sox 6

In Boston, Wei-Yin Chen pitched perfect ball into the sixth inning, Adam Jones helped provide an early cushion and the Orioles beat the Red Sox for a three-game sweep.

The Orioles took an 8-0 lead in the fifth and maintained their double-digit lead atop the AL East.

Caleb Joseph homered and drove in three runs and Ryan Flaherty got a career-high four hits as Baltimore won for the 11th time in 14 games.

Angels 8, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Albert Pujols opened the scoring with his first triple in more than four years, rookie Matt Shoemaker had another strong start, and the Angels beat the Rangers.

Pujols almost made it two straight triples, only to change his mind as he rounded second. He was then tagged out trying to get back to the base and finished a home run shy of the cycle.

The AL West-leading Angels (90-55), who are nine games up on Oakland after the A's lost at the Chicago White Sox, were the first team in the majors to 90 wins with their season-high seventh straight victory.

White Sox 2, Athletics 1

In Chicago, Avisail Garcia drove in two runs with a bases-loaded single in the eighth inning, and the White Sox beat the struggling Athletics.

The Athletics were in line for the win after Jeff Samardzija threw seven scoreless innings, and Adam Dunn singled in a run against his former team.

Instead, they lost for the 10th time in 13 games because the bullpen failed again to protect a lead.

Brewers 4, Marlins 1

In Milwaukee, rookie Matt Clark hit his first career home run, Wily Peralta pitched into the seventh inning, and the Brewers beat the Marlins.

Peralta (16-10) gave up one earned run and five hits in 6 2-3 innings to help Milwaukee snap a four-game losing streak and win for just the second time in its last 15 games. The right-hander also had an RBI for the Brewers, who remained 1 1/2 games behind Pittsburgh for the second wild-card spot.

Francisco Rodriguez got the last three outs to reach 40 saves for the fifth time in his career.

Astros 5, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Jose Altuve had two hits and an RBI and the Astros damaged the Mariners post-season hopes.

Altuve had a RBI double in the fifth and a single in the seventh for his league-leading 200th hit. He is the second Astros player to accomplish the feat, joining Craig Biggio — who set the franchise record of 210 in 1998. Altuve leads the American League in hitting at .337, hits and steals with 52.

The Mariners, who lost two of three in the series, remained a half-game behind Detroit for the American League's second wild-card spot.

Dodgers 4, Padres 0

In Los Angeles, Dan Haren tossed seven sharp innings to give the Dodgers four pitchers with 13 wins for the first time in 19 years, and Los Angeles beat the Padres.

Haren (13-10) allowed four hits, struck out five and walked one.

He joined Clayton Kershaw, Hyun-Jin Ryu and Zack Greinke as the first quartet with at least that many wins since Orel Hershiser, Fernando Valenzuela, Jerry Reuss and Bob Welch in 1985.

Carl Crawford had a season-high four hits, including three doubles, and Hanley Ramirez and Juan Uribe added RBI singles as the Dodgers finished 12-7 against San Diego this season.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 0

In San Francisco, four pitchers combined on a two-hit shutout and Gregor Blanco had an RBI double as part of a four-run seventh inning that sent the Giants to a win over the Diamondbacks.

Hunter Pence drew a leadoff walk from Arizona reliever Oliver Perez (3-4) to jump-start the Giants offense. Blanco fell behind 1-2 and fouled off two consecutive pitches before lining a double past diving first baseman Mark Trumbo. Diamondbacks right fielder Alfredo Marte fumbled the ball as it ricocheted off the wall near Arizona's bullpen, allowing Pence to score without a throw.

Pinch-hitter Matt Duffy then doubled off Evan Marshall to drive in Blanco.

Jean Machi (7-1) retired the only batter he faced for the win.

The Giants remained 2 1-2 games behind the first-place Dodgers in the NL West.

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France upsets Spain 65-52 in WCup quarters

MADRID (AP)—France upset Spain 65-52 in front of its stunned fans in the quarterfinals of the Basketball World Cup on Wednesday.

After dominating its first six games and blowing out France by 24 points in the group phase, Spain appeared to be the main candidate to dethrone the United States in a possible final that would have been a rematch of the past two Olympic gold-medal games.

But France defended well and rebounded even better to ruin Spain's quest for a title for a second straight summer.

Last summer, Tony Parker helped France end Spain's quest for a third consecutive European title.

This time, Spain had several reasons to believe it would avenge that loss. Parker wasn't playing for France, and Spain had Pau Gasol back in its ranks, besides playing at home.

"It's a painful and disappointing defeat," Pau said. "We had such high expectations and had played so well until now."

AP

France's Florent Pietrus, left, and Evan Fournier cheer their team during the basketball World Cup quarter finals match between Spain and France in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014.

Spain had averaged 88 points per game through its first six wins, all blowouts. But France cut off Spain's passing lanes and forced it into solo efforts.

Spain's guards didn't adjust by looking for Pau and Marc Gasol in the post enough, and then compounded that by missing all but two of their 22 attempts from beyond the 3-point arc.

"Everyone thought we had won this before it started, but we didn't prepare well for the game and were trying to play catchup the entire way," Spain guard Juan Carlos Navarro said. "They prepared better than we did. We relied on doing what we always do, defend and get out on the break, but our shots didn't fall, and they played with a lot of poise."

Boris Diaw scored 15 points and Thomas Heurtel added 13 for a France team which pulled in 50 rebounds to Spain's 28.

Pau had 17 for Spain, but his brother Marc and Serge Ibaka each went 1-of-7 from the field to combine for just 5 points.

Serbia awaits France on Friday after it routed Brazil 84-56 in the other quarterfinal.

The U.S. plays Lithuania in the other semifinal in Barcelona on Thursday.

Pau scored in the post to spark Spain's 12-4 run to open the third period and edge ahead 40-39.

A brief scuffle marred that span when France's Florent Pietrus slapped Sergi Llull in the back of the head after an argument. Pietrus was awarded an unsportsmanlike technical foul.

Spain entered the final period with a one-point lead but without any clear plan of attack.

Diaw nailed a backbreaking 3 after France again beat Spain to the offensive boards to take a 51-45 lead and force Juan Orenga to call time-out with 6:41 left.

Inter-Hotel caging finals set next week

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 2014 Budweiser Inter-Hotel Basketball League finals between Pacific Islands Club and Shirley's-Century Hotel will be moved to either Thursday or Friday next week, depending on the availability of both teams and the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

League organizer and Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands board member Abner Venus said the game was supposed to be played yesterday but the Ada Gym was being used by the BANMI-organized Youth League, which opened its season last Wednesday.

Games in the youth league are played from Wednesdays to Saturdays from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

Instead, the battle for third place in the hotel league between Fiesta Resort and Spa and Saipan World Resort was played Thursday night. Results were not available at press time.

Venus said that the one-game finals, instead of PIC enjoying a twice-to-beat edge after going undefeated in the playoffs, will be played on Thursday or Friday. "I will still have to talk to both teams on what's the most convenient schedule for them."

PIC and Shirley's arranged a knockout championship match after dispatching Fiesta and World Resort, respectively, last Tuesday.

PIC, which finished second to Fiesta after the elimination round, waltzed to an 89-55 victory, while Shirley's relied on the timely baskets of John Jugos, Erick Dela Rosa, and Rommel Usi in the second half to complete a 72-65 upset of Saipan World Resort.

Meanwhile, the inaugural Inter-Hotel All-Star game will be held today after games in the youth league at 7:30pm.

The Northern team is composed of selected players from Fiesta Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Marianas Resort and Spa, and Shirley's Century Hotel, while chosen members from the Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club, and World Resort will make up the Southern side.

Fiesta's Elmer Esdrelon, Djay Ong, and Jared Matsutaro; Jas Rosokow and Jayson Gatdula of Marianas Resort; Shirley's Rommel Usi, Angel Catungal, Erick Dela Rosa, and Josephus Aguilar; and Kiolani Rios, Gino Libuw, and Sahj Hossain of Hyatt are the members of the Bobby Reyes-mentored North team.

Kanoa's Dindo Pablo, Mico Usi, Matt Duenas, and Fred Litulumar; John Lewis Sr., Jomar Danas, Eugene Manglona, and Dennis Vinas of World Resort; and PIC's Byrl Alegre, Bart Demapan, James Abuy, and Darwin Barbo are the players of the Noel Verder-coached South

SAIPAN

From Page 32

bound with Lizama on the finishing end, driving against Esdrelon and going for a twisting shot to avoid his defender.

Esdrelon tried to retaliate quickly, but missed a triple. There was a battle for the loose ball after the long shot and the Destroyers won, but failed to cash in on the second and third opportunities with Webb Gontar faltering on another jumper and Esdrelon missing again, as he tried his luck from downtown anew instead of just a quick 2 with still 30 seconds left in the match. After the third miss, Saipan Ice finally got the rebound and the Destroyers fouled Lizama to stop the clock.

Lizama went on to can the pair of charities to up their lead to 4, 89-85, with 14.7 seconds left in the game. An undergoal stab from Gontar sliced the deficit to 2 and the Destroyers gambled on not giving up another foul and instead tried to steal the ball. However, Saipan Ice players were scattered well on the floor and ironically big man and error-prone Alex Standish got the possession and went coast to coast from the backcourt for the dagger, 91-87, 5.5 seconds remaining on the clock. Treat Kaipat then intercepted Guiab's inbound pass and Saipan Ice ran down the time to continue their uphill climb in the nine-team league after earning only two wins in the regular season.

Saipan Ice managed to eliminate the Destroyers despite playing without Dan Barcinas. Kaipat stepped up for Barcinas, scoring 20 points, while Derrick Rangamar was his usual explosive self, drilling 26 markers. Lizama also had 26 points, making up for his absence in their first round victory against the Gliders.

The Destroyers was also without its key player Matt Duenas. Esdrelon attempted to fill the void, as he scored 34 points, but missed majority of his shots in the fourth where he was held to 2 points. Guiab and Santos added 15 and 12, respectively.

Island Floral eliminates TBK

Meanwhile, Island Floral also eked out a close win over TBK Mechanics in the first game, 90-88, to notch the third semis berth.

Island Floral, which is incidentally made up of the core of Island Manpower roster that defeated TBK in the finals in Season 3, drew timely baskets from Peter Lizama and Ferrick Aguon in the homestretch to oust last season's finalist.

Lizama had a string of 3 points, while Aguon scored Island Floral's last 4 markers to put their team one win away from marching into the finals. Aguon hit all his 6 points in the fourth frame, while Lizama registered eight of his 12 in the final canto. The fourth period started with Island Floral behind, 62-64, and the game remained tight with Kelvin Fitial and Lerio Pagarao keeping up with their foe's balance offense. However, Island Floral had the last say with Aguon and Lizama hitting clutch baskets, while Fitial went scoreless in the closing minutes of the playoff match.

First Game

Island Floral 90 – Bisana 17, Tabora 14, Lizama 12, Norita 11, Capalad 9, Kaipat 7, Aguon 6, Diaz 5, Ong 4, Teregeyo 4.

TBK Mechanics 88 – Pagarao 19, Fitial 18 I. Devero 10, N. Mateo 10, Quitugua 8, C. Devero 5, Catalla 5, Pangelinan 3, Velasco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-18, 40-43, 62-64, 90-88.

Second Game

Saipan Ice 91 – Lizama 26, Rangamar 26, Kaipat 20, Standish 11, Mendiola 4.

Destroyers 87 – Esdrelon 34, Guiab 15, Santos 12, Gontar 10, Fernandez 7, Serrano 3, Bautista 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-16, 41-40, 68-67, 91-87.

LEINA

From Page 32

shooting a 12-over 154.

Senior Julie Sanchez, Kim's teammate, came in a strong fifth with a pair of 74 and 81 at 13-over 155.

Kim, according to the ThunderWolves' official website, opened up with a 3-over 74 on Monday afternoon but bounced back with a 1-under 70 for that 144. She birdied holes No. 3 and 4 in the front, and had a bogey-free round going home firing birdies at holes No. 10, 11, and 14.

Her strong finish helped the Lady ThunderWolves to a joint second place finish in the team event with CSU-Pueblo shooting 324 and 321 for 2-over-par 645, which is the same score of Metro State University. Lewis University won the team title with a 643 tally (325 and 318).

Samantha Geisick ended up tied at 34th (170), Natasha Navarro landed tied for 46th (170), and Megan McCutcheon finished 66th (191) to round up the reigning Division II champion CSU-Pueblo's scoring.

Kim, the youngest in Shirley and Young Kim's three children, also won three individual tournaments last season to clinch an NCAA Division II regionals berth last season. She earned her first RMAC Preseason Golfer of the Year award in her rookie season and became the first CSU-Pueblo golfer to earn All-America honors.

She also qualified for the NCAA Division II national championships as an individual where she finished 28th overall with a 20-over-par score after four rounds.

The ThunderWolves resume their bid of a third RMAC crown in four seasons on Monday, Sept. 15, in the RMAC-sponsored tournament hosted by Colorado Christian University.

BANMI

From Page 32

scored in the third. Chris Mizer tallied 4 points, while Tudela and Jasper Yap chipped in 2 apiece. Mendoza saw limited minutes in the third and was not even at the starting lineup of Ol'Aces at the beginning of the second half.

He then started out for Ol'Aces in the fourth and took care of business, while getting enough help from his Marianas High School teammate Ignacio Borja, who contributed 6 points in the final frame. Marc Babauta was the third Ol'Aces players to score in the fourth, adding 4 markers, while the Sonics was held to 9 points and three field goals.

Meanwhile, the U18 division of the league kicked off last night with the Chalan Kanoa Saints dueling Kentucky Fried Chicken, but results of the match were unavailable at press time. Six more teams are entered in the U18 division and two will have their debuts today as the CNMI Girls U18 Team takes on the Rollers in the first game at 5:30pm. In the second game at 6:30pm, Laly 4 meets Kentucky Fried Chicken in the U21 division. Then in the U14 division matches tomorrow, it will be Rollers versus Ol'Aces at 9am and DYS against DA Projects at 10:30am.

Ol'Aces 56 – Mizer 15, Mendoza 10, Borja 10, Tudela 8, Babauta 6, Darag 3.

Sonics 50 – Aranda 15, Feria 8, De Guzman 8, Dela Rosa 7, Alegre 4, Fidelino 2, Mariano 2, Espinosa

Scoring by quarters: 12-9, 28-19, 36-41, 56-50.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	86	59	.593	—
Toronto	76	69	.524	10
New York	74	69	.517	11
Tampa Bay	70	76	.479	16½
Boston	63	83	.432	23½

Central Division

Kansas City	80	64	.556	—
Detroit	80	66	.548	1
Cleveland	74	69	.517	5½
Chicago	65	80	.448	15½
Minnesota	62	82	.431	18

West Division

Los Angeles	90	55	.621	—
Oakland	81	64	.559	9
Seattle	79	66	.545	11
Houston	65	81	.445	25½
Texas	54	91	.372	36

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	82	62	.569	—
Atlanta	75	71	.514	8
Miami	71	73	.493	11
New York	71	75	.486	12
Philadelphia	67	78	.462	15½

Central Division

St. Louis	80	66	.548	—
Pittsburgh	76	69	.524	3½
Milwaukee	75	71	.514	5
Cincinnati	69	77	.473	11
Chicago	64	82	.438	16

West Division

Los Angeles	83	63	.568	—
San Francisco	80	65	.552	2½
San Diego	67	78	.462	15½
Arizona	59	86	.407	23½
Colorado	59	87	.404	24

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ghasias Brothers leads rained-out match vs Flip Top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ghasias Brothers is hanging on to a 91-87 lead against Flip Top in their rained-out semis match in the 2014 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The game will continue tonight with a Ghasias Brothers' victory moving the team closer to the finals. Ghasias won its first semis match against Ali'i, 94-81, while Flip Top prevailed against SSFM, 84-81, to boost their finals bid. Only the Top 2 teams after the round-robin semis will advance to the championship game and the fight for the two finals berth is down to three teams since SSFM lost to Ali'i (via forfeit) in the first game last Wednesday. The eliminated SSFM will play its last game tonight against Ghasias Brothers, while Flip Top and Ali'i will collide in Saturday's crucial match that will decide the finals cast.

If Ghasias wins the continuation of its match over Flip Top and also tops SSFM, the former will march into the finals first and leave the defending champion Ali'i and Flip Top to battle for the remaining finals spot. If Flip Top steals the victory tonight, but loses to Ali'i and Ghasias wins over SSFM, there could be a three-way tie for the Top 2 spots. Organizers have to announce how the tiebreak will be decided.

To grab the upper hand and the win against Ghasias Brothers, Flip Top must find a way to stop Freddie Pelisamen, who had collected 44 points when the game was called off due to rain.

Pelisamen made his presence felt early in the match, drilling 9 points to hand Ghasias Brothers a 22-13 advantage at the end of the first period. Ghasias led by as much as 12 points in the opening canto before Jun Estolas started hitting his mark and prevented an early Ghasias Brothers breakaway.

Estolas kept going in the second quarter, trading baskets with Pelisamen, as Flip Top managed to tie the match, 39-all, before the Ghasias Brothers main gunner scored his team's last 5 points to close the half with a 46-41 lead.

The Estolas-Pelisamen showdown continued in the third with the latter dropping 12 more points, including Ghasias Brothers' last 7 to help his team retain the driver's seat, 71-66. Estolas countered with 9 points and got some help from Ron Gamboa and Mike Arciaga to keep Flip Top afloat, entering the fourth quarter.

In the payoff period, Estolas went cold in the opening minutes before firing Flip Top's last three baskets, while Pelisamen was still unstoppable. Pelisamen had scored 14 points in the fourth before the game was halted. Gyles Ruluked backed up Pelisamen, delivering 6 in the first eight minutes of the fourth period.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ghasias Brothers' Gyles Ruluked slices through the defense of Flip Top's Jun Fidelino, left, and Mike Arciaga during the third quarter of their game in the semis round of the DLX caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Leaders remain on top of respective divisions in SEDA league

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
The Jokers Kitty Kats, left, and Sand Juvy Vicious Darties are locked in a two-cornered fight for the Ladies Division crown in the 2014 Bud Light Saipan Electronic Darts Association League.

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13gmail.com
REPORTER

Leaders of the 2014 Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Dart League remained on top of their respective divisions after last week's games held in various bars on the island.

Naked Fish Ridin' Dirty continues to lord it over in the A League with a 40-11 record, but the Sand Juvy Predator are three games behind at 37-14.

The A Division crown is turning out to be a two-cornered fight between Ridin' Dirty and Predator as the latter's sister squads, the San Juvy Outlawz and 101 Proofers hold 31-20 and 27-24 slates at third and fourth.

The Jokers X-ecutioners and Destroyers enjoy a seven-win edge over their respective opponents in the Tuesday B and Masters divisions.

The X-ecutioners have already compiled a 36-9 slate after three weeks against the 29-16 mark of Smoke Pub Marupok in Tuesday B, while the Destroyers are 32-19 after 51 games compared to the 25-26 mark of sister teamd TRA-Bull Makerz.

The Jokers Disciples are fighting to keep hold of the lead in the C-Chichirika Division, they are holding on to a 28-17 slate against five other teams that are out to dislodge them atop the standings.

Sand Juvy Ta Chagi are one-win behind at 27-18 followed by the Barcode Breakers, Smoke Pub Snipers, and Poseidon Feelin' Lucky with identical 25-20 marks. The Jokers Spartans are at fifth with a 24-21 card.

Over at the C-Kingfisher Division, Route 33 Chagi Fan!!! and Jokers Latte Darts are tied atop the standings with 32-13 slates, while Naked Fish Hafa Mas are three games adrift at 29-16.

The Jokers Warriors and Naked Fish Ridin' Dirty are tied on top the Thursday Flame Tree division with 30-15 cards, while Jokers Kitty Kats and Sand Juvy Vicious Darties duplicated the feat in the Ladies League with both teams also at 30-15.

Sand Juvy Put3ska are the leaders in the Thursday Fanihi Division with a 34-11 record followed by the Smoke Pub D'Mekaniks 2 (28-17), Route33 Mixblood Shooter3 (25-20), and Smoke Pub 80 Proofers (24-21).

PIC hosts fourth leg of Asia Flow Series

Saipan will be hosting the fourth leg of the Asia Flow Series of Sept. 26 and 27 with Bridge Capital teaming up with PIC Saipan once again to help the region's best riders get to the finals in Thailand.

"We have riders who train all year for this event," tournament director Glenn Policare said.

These include 2013 men's flowboard champion Dan Westfall and runner-up Keoni Ichihara, who will represent Saipan at the Series Finals to be held on Oct. 3 and 4 in Bangkok. Last year's men's pro bodyboard champion Ray Babauta and 2013 men's open bodyboard runner-up Francis Hartman will be waving the flag for Saipan as teams from Japan and Korea will be coming to qualify for the series finals as well. The series final event, which rotates from location to location each year, decides who will represent Asia at the Flowrider World Championships.

"Not only has the competition become fiercer over the years, the riding has gotten much more technical." Spectators can expect to see rodeos, lazy 3s, kickflips, shuvits, backside AL's, fast plants and a laundry list of other tricks being performed at the highest levels," Policare added.

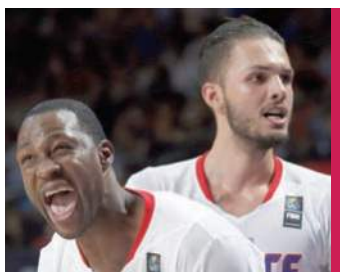
Dale Roberts, 3x Flowrider judge, says it is the combination of tricks, which makes a rider a champion. "Combinations displayed with power and flow always score high in my book. We all like to see a wide variety of tricks. The international cache of riders always bring their A game." Roberts said.

Jody Jordahl, chief operating officer for Bridge Capital, LLC, said that they are excited to be a part of this upcoming event.

"Bridge Capital, LLC is pleased to continue the tradition of working with Pacific Island Club, and to be a sponsor for the upcoming Asia Flow Tour Competition. We remain committed to supporting events that give people in our local community a chance to compete internationally and represent the CNMI."

Competitors will be practicing from 6pm to 8pm this week and next. Competition on Sept. 26 starts at 5pm. The public is welcome to watch the event for free. For more information, contact Policare at 237-5148 or glenn.policare@picsaipan.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pacific Islands Club' Glenn Policare, left, receives the ceremonial check donation from Jody Jordahl, chief operating officer for Bridge Capital, LLC, for the fourth leg of the Asia Flow Series.



France upsets Spain 65-52 in WCup quarters

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Sports

Ghasias Brothers leads rained-out match vs Flip Top

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Saipan Ice barges into semifinals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Destroyers' Sam Fernandez gets in the way of Saipan Ice's Jack Lizama, who went on to make an and-1 play in the first half of their quarterfinal game in the DL Corp. caging last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Ice & Water's upset axe continued to work and this time it hit the third-ranked Destroyers, 91-87, during the quarterfinal game in the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 4 last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Saipan Ice, which claimed the second to the last playoff seat and then stunned the sixth-seeded Gliders, is now in the semifinals and faces second-ranked San Antonio in the first Final Four match tonight at 6:30pm. Regular season top finisher Hite Jinro and Island Floral collide in the other semis game at 8pm.

Jack Lizama came into Saipan Ice's rescue after the team squandered a double-digit spread, going into the last five minute of the match. The mobile big man converted a twisting layup and two charities under the one-minute mark of the seesaw battle to move Saipan Ice one win away from advancing to the finals.

Lizama also scored 6 straight points early in the fourth frame to lead a 10-2 run that gave Saipan Ice a 10-point advantage, 85-75, 5:05 left on the clock. Before the rally, Lizama and company were clinging to a 1-point lead, 68-67, but after creating more breathing room between them and the Destroyers, Saipan Ice found itself locked in a standoff, 85-all. The Destroyers managed to tie the match after launching a 10-0 bomb in the next three minutes. Edwin Santos anchored the fight-back, drilling 6 points, including the equalizer underneath the basket off an extra pass from Junar Guiab.

The Destroyers then had a chance to steal the lead after Saipan Ice was called for a travelling violation on the other end, however Elmer Esdrelon's shot off a touchdown pass from Guiab rattled off the rim and Saipan Ice controlled the re-

See SAIPAN on Page 30

Ol'Aces win debut in BANMI youth league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ol'Aces saved the best for last, launching a fourth-quarter rally to thwart the 670 Sonics, 56-50, in the opening game in the 2014 BANMI Youth League last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Kobe Mendoza starred in Ol'Aces' fourth-quarter comeback, scoring all his 10 points in the payoff canto, including the team's last 5 markers. He nailed three crucial free throws in the home stretch to seal the Ol'Aces debut win in the U21 division.

The Ol'Aces leaned on Mendoza's strong finish after losing a 9-point halftime lead and facing a 5-point deficit, 36-42, entering the fourth period. The Sonics, who are again coached by the returning Jesse Tudela, turned the tables on Ol'Aces in the third after doubling up the latter, 22-8. Jack Aranda brought the Sonics back in the game, as he nearly matched the entire output of Ol'Aces, registering 7 points.

The Ol'Aces were without a field goal in the first four minutes of the second half before Jimmy Tudela canned a jumphook against Erick Dela Rosa from the right wing. The Sonics, on the other hand, had a 16-2 blast capped by Aranda's triple to steal the driver's seat, 35-32. Dela Rosa also contributed in the third-quarter fight-back, draining two straight baskets, while Mike Espinosa hit the Sonics' last bucket to lift the team to the 6-point cushion, 41-36.

The Ol'Aces trailed after three quarters as only three players

See BANMI on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ol'Aces' Chris Mizer soars for a layup against 670 Sonics defenders during the third quarter of the opening game in the BANMI youth league last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Leina kicks off RMAC season with victory

CSU-PUEBLO FACEBOOK PAGE
Leina Kim opened the 2014 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference season with a victory at the Samuel Proal Insurance Lady Wolf Pack Invitational and in the process helped Colorado State-University-Pueblo to a second place finish in the team competition.

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13@gmail.com
REPORTER

Leina Kim ruled the Samuel Proal Insurance Lady Wolf Pack Invitational and in the process helped Colorado State-University-Pueblo to a second place finish to kick things off for the ThunderWolves in the 2014 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference season in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II.

The two-time RMAC Pre-season Golfer of the Year finished with a 2-over-par 144 for a 9-stroke win over the 153 (78-75) of closest pursuer Nicole Hulbert of Regis University last Tuesday at the Pueblo Country Club.

Wayland Baptist University's Hannah Duvall (74 and 80) and Melissa VanSistine (80-74) of team champion Lewis College ended up tied for third to fourth spots after

See KIM on Page 30